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THE TIMES

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Defeated GTech chief reigns

Watchdog must go, Branson says after trial

By JOANNA BALE AND JONATHAN ASHWORTH

GUY SNOWDEN resigned from the board of the National Lottery operator Camelot yesterday within minutes of losing his libel action against Richard Branson, the Virgin chief.

The American businessman was ordered to pay £100,000 damages to Mr Branson and an estimated £2 million in legal costs.

Mr Snowden, 52, the chairman of GTech, the American gaming company which has a 22.5 per cent stake in Camelot, said as he emerged from the High Court in London: "I am proud of the job I have been able to do at Camelot. I hope these good works will be my legacy after this disappointment. I think that probably standing down from the Camelot board is the right thing to do at this point."

Mr Branson, who had claimed that Mr Snowden tried to bribe him to pull out of the race to run the National Lottery, immediately called for an overhaul of the way it is run and for the sacking of Peter Davis, the regulator responsible for its running. At



Surrounded by his wife and family, Richard Branson emerges from the High Court after winning £100,000 libel damages and costs. His wife, Joan, is beside him on the left

a champagne reception to celebrate his victory, Mr Branson called for a new non-profitmaking "people's lottery" and announced he would give his libel award to charity.

Camelot sought last night to distance itself from Mr Snowden and vowed to carry on running the lottery as normal.

Joanna Manning-Cooper, a spokeswoman, said after hearing the verdict: "This was a civil dispute between Mr Branson and Mr Snowden and did not involve Camelot.

"For this reason and since we understand an appeal is being considered, it is not appropriate for us to comment further. For Camelot it is business as usual."

Camelot dismissed Mr Branson's calls for the lottery to be taken out of its hands, saying the issue of how it was operated was irrelevant to the court case.

Ms Manning-Cooper said: "The licence was fairly won by Camelot on the basis that it gave an undertaking to raise more for the good causes and take out less costs than any other bidder."

Mr Branson, who was present in court throughout the three-week trial, called on the Government to sack Mr Davis in order to "restore the credibility of the lottery."

The Virgin chief said: "I believe that the faith of the British public can only be fully restored by the appointment of a new director-general of Oflot, with immediate effect, as a first step to restoring the credibility of the lottery."

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, who had earlier

remained as the GTech Corporation chairman.

The watchdog said detailed discussions had yet to be finalised over what arrangements would be needed to prevent profits from Camelot filtering through to Mr Snowden as a shareholder.

Mr Branson said that GTech's role in the National Lottery should also be reconsidered: "GTech has no place in our lottery and Chris Smith, the Secretary of State, should take appropriate steps to restore the confidence of the British public that this really is a lottery for good causes. I feel passionately that it should be run on a non-profit making basis."

"The lottery is a risk-free private monopoly with a licence from the British Government to print money."

Mr Branson, whose unsuccessful bid to run the lottery in 1994 was on a non-profitmaking basis, is to donate the damages to the smaller charities which had suffered since the introduction of the lottery.

The jury returned a unanimous verdict in favour of Mr Branson, who said that the wealthy American attempted to bribe him during a lunch at Holland Park, West London, in September 1993. According to Mr Branson's evidence, Mr Snowden was agitated and sweating profusely when he leaned towards him and said: "I don't know how to phrase this, Richard. There is always a bottom line. How can we help you, Richard? I mean, how can we help you personally?"

When Mr Branson asked: "What on earth do you mean?", Mr Snowden replied: "There is always something in life that everybody needs."

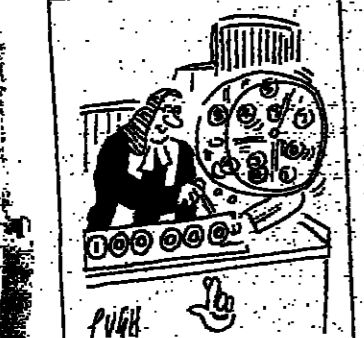
Mr Branson then said: "Thank you. I am quite successful."

Mr Branson told Mr Davis of the bribery attempt the day after Camelot was awarded the licence, but the lottery watchdog dismissed his claims. The allegations of bribery emerged publicly two years later in a BBC Panorama documentary, which also explored other allegations of corruption against the US company.

Mr Branson said last night: "Camelot should never have been allowed to pass the probity test with GTech as shareholders."



Snowden: "standing down is right thing"



£100bn drugs merger sends FTSE leaping

SHARES in London raced ahead as dealers responded to the planned £100 billion merger of Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham (SKB), set to become the world's biggest drugs company (Jon Ashworth writes).

The FTSE 100 index rose 140.5 points as speculation of further mega-deals gripped the pharmaceutical sector. Shares in Glaxo Wellcome leapt 240p to £10.83, while SKB gained 65p to 845p. Union leaders claim the merger puts 2,000 UK jobs at risk. Page 27

Drink-drivers to face mass breath tests outside pubs

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS yesterday paved the way for "pub purges" in which police will have the right to carry out mass breath-alysers tests outside public houses.

Powers similar to the "stop and search" principle, which allows police to confiscate offensive weapons, have been put forward as a way of countering drink-driving.

The changes look almost certain to coincide with a planned reduction in the drink-drive limit to the equivalent of one pint of beer or two glasses of wine.

However, there were immediate protests that these proposals could force country pubs to close. Mike Ripley, of the Brewers and Licensed Retailers' Association, said: "Lowering the limit would be a disaster for country pubs, shops and social life in country areas. It fails to address the question of hard-core drink-drivers who are double or triple the present limit."

The proposals put forward by ministers yesterday form

Clarke knighting ceremony delay

The British science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke, 80, has asked for the "postponement" of the knighthood ceremony that was to have been conducted by the Prince of Wales tomorrow in Sri Lanka. He said he was outraged by allegations that he paid for sex with boys. He insisted he did not want to embarrass the Prince and said he was taking legal advice. Page 11

Caught by snake in the grass

The England A cricket team had to contend with a snake on the outfield during their match against Sri Lanka A in Kurunegala. The snake took up a position at long-on during the last session of the day and was hit by a stroke from one of tail-end batsmen. The snake scuttled off across the boundary rope and was then chased away by boys with sticks. Page 49

No clemency for Texas woman

The Texas Board of Pardons has signalled its determination to send Karla Faye Tucker to her death by rejecting her last-ditch plea for clemency.

Tucker, 38, will die at at midnight London time, becoming the first woman to be executed in Texas since the Civil War. Page 12

Housing plea

William Hague called yesterday for two thirds of new housing to be built in towns and cities as hundreds of people joined him to launch a countryside campaign. Page 8

Saddam denies offering arms inspection deal

By MICHAEL BINYON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein last night plunged the world into fresh uncertainty by denying that he had offered a face-saving compromise on arms inspections to Russia's special envoy.

An Iraqi government statement said there was no deal between Saddam and Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, who had earlier announced that Baghdad would allow limited access to the presidential palaces now barred to United Nations weapons inspectors. America dismissed the proposals as "not a solution."

Mr Posuvalyuk said that Iraq would allow UN inspectors to monitor eight new sites, but only as representatives of their countries' governments and accompanied by diplomats from the permanent members of the Security Council.

William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said the proposals were worth looking at but were not a solution. As the allied military build-up in the Gulf continued, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, met Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia in a desert encampment to drum up regional support for possible American airstrikes against Iraq.

Later, Saudi Arabia and America warned Iraq of "grave consequences" if diplomatic efforts failed to resolve a standoff over UN weapons inspections, according to a statement read on Saudi television.

Britain reacted cautiously to

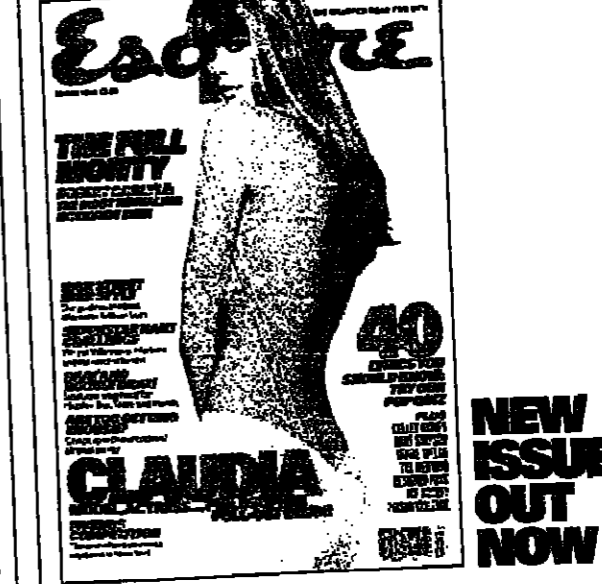
Esquire

"I went through a period between 16 and 20 when I just went mad... I had to change what was going on around me or else I was lost."
Robert Carlyle Esq

"I'd say I hope Murray Lachlan Young dies young, except that would guarantee him a South Bank Show special."
Stewart Lee Esq

"Now Villeneuve's world champion, he thinks he's the best. So I said, 'Fine, fine, you. Learn to drive the go-kart yourself!'"
Mika Salo Esq

"I am not the reincarnation of Sammy Davis Junior."
Bart Simpson Esq



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2 HOME NEWS

Cook precision-bombs the Iraqi awkward squad

BESIDES a passionate blast against proportional representation from Jack Straw at Home Office questions yesterday, the main surprise was a powerful showing by the supposedly faltering Foreign Secretary.

Other MPs, no quarrel declare that Tony Benn (Lab, Iraq) explained that Brit-Chester does not equal the ain plus community. Cook inter- added that this was agreed working to persuade why the Anglo-American case, by Cohen (Lab, Leyton & lead) suggested that

Saddam's conscripts and volunteers would be led, like some Dad's Army, to slaughter. Cook - in that humorous, grunting way in which he feigns mild protest at some outrageous remark - wondered whether Saddam's arsenal of deadly poisons quite answered to the description "Dad's Army".

MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

list of UN achievements in curbing Baghdad's ambitions - then batted aside Jeremy Corbyn (Lab, Islington N) with ease. Cook met his match only once yesterday. Because George Galloway is regarded by many as an obsessive leftwinger, his debating talents are overlooked. But the Labour MP for Glasgow Kelvin is one of the best speakers in the House. If Galloway had not frittered away his talents on doubtful causes, it would not be hard to

imagine him leading a riot. Within the compass of a single question he reminded MPs that the first use of poison gas on the Iraqis had been by Winston Churchill. That the reason we know Saddam has chemical weapons is that we used to sell them to him; that we were in danger of killing the Iraqis to save them; and that the double-standard that could overlook Israel's flouting of the UN "turned the stomachs of Arabs and Muslims".

writer there was one other response from Robin Cook which jarred. The Foreign Secretary questioned the judgment of those Commons doubters who, he hinted, were "undermining the threat of force". It was "important to show unity". Perhaps, but when an elected Member honestly doubts the wisdom of some adventure, to respond by suggesting, even obliquely, that it might be unpatriotic to say so, strikes that very faintly sour note which sometimes hovers on the margins of Robin Cook's impressive Commons performances.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Informer has jail sentence reduced

The ringleader of a violent gang that preyed on elderly people had a 25-year jail sentence cut to just eight yesterday because he informed on his confederates. The judge at Newcastle Crown Court also ordered the identity of the 27-year-old Scotsman to remain secret after his evidence led to the arrest of 27 accomplices.

As a result of the gang's arrest, violent crime has dropped in the Tyneside area by 16 per cent over the past year. The man admitted 12 specimen charges of robbery and one of burglary. He asked for 140 other offences to be taken into account.

QC's defended

The Attorney-General rejected proposals that the system of Queen's Counsel should be scrapped. John Morris, QC, said that he and the Solicitor-General, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, were "strongly opposed" to abolition. A report by the Adam Smith Institute said that the system enabled the Bar to keep prices high.

New opera role

Nicholas Payne, director of the Royal Opera, has been appointed general director of the English National Opera. Mr Payne, 53, has worked with the Royal Opera for five years and was previously with Opera North. He takes up his new post in the summer, working alongside Paul Daniel, the musical director.

Inmates on drugs

Random drug testing at a top security jail has disclosed that almost half of the 140 prisoners examined were using illegal substances. The majority of the 63 inmates testing positive for drugs at Perth prison were found to be using cannabis with the rest using opiates, including heroin.

M6 shut by chase

A gunman in a stolen van first spotted by police weaving through traffic on the M6 in Greater Manchester was eventually brought to a halt 70 miles away in Cumbria after hitting several vehicles and driving the wrong way up the M6, which the police had to close. A 29-year-old man was later arrested.

Mother's payout

Lynne Vasilchenko, 37, of Sutton, Surrey, a mother of five, who had been transformed into a "happy-go-lucky" spendthrift by brain damage suffered during a gynaecological investigation under general anaesthetic at Kingston Hospital 14 years ago, accepted damages of £225,000. The hospital denied liability.

Milk ban delayed

A proposed ban on the sale of unsaturated "goats' milk" has been postponed for three weeks to allow further consultation with farmers and consumer groups. The Government believes that untreated raw milk could prove a health risk to consumers, who include the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

Street cleaning

Noisy gangs of drunken youths causing a nuisance in town-centre streets are being targeted by a special police unit. Under the scheme being tested by Hertfordshire police in Stevenage, the youths and their parents will be visited by officers and they will be arrested.

Fan loses claim

Derrick Arnot, a Middlesbrough football supporter who tried to sue the Football Association for the £342 cost of his season ticket after his team was relegated from the Premiership, had his case dismissed at Teesside County Court. The club had been ordered to pay £300,000 for failing to play a match.

Whitehall struggle for control of the countryside

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A POWER struggle has erupted over proposals by Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, to take new responsibilities for the countryside in a revamped agriculture ministry. John Prescott, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, is leading the fight against a move by Dr Cunningham to take control of leading rural agencies from the environment department, including the Countryside Commission, and to put them in a new Department of Rural Affairs.



Cunningham wants to give rural people a voice

would result in the agriculture ministry, which would still be in charge of farmers' interests, taking control of controversial issues such as access to the countryside and the protection of hedgerows. "We would be right to be nervous that the producer interests might hold sway in disputes in these areas," a government source said. "We are not being mindlessly territorial here but the postcher-turned-gardener argument can be taken too far." A ministerial source said that that, if the environment department lost control of countryside agencies, "the coherence of our whole environment strategy is at risk".

WANTED THE FOUL MURDER OF LEADING LOYALIST BILLY WRIGHT MO MOWLAM ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OTHER MURDERS AND MILITARY ACTION TAKEN BY THE L.V.F. IN DIRECT RETALIATION FOR THE STATE SPONSORED ASSASSINATION OF OUR COMRADE WHILST A POW IN HMP MAZE. L.V.F. HILLINGDALE CAMP

An LVF poster condemning Mo Mowlam. Others have attacked local politicians

LVF warns of 'unholy war' on Catholics

By Martin Fletcher

THE Loyalist Volunteer Force said yesterday that it will wage an "unholy war" against Roman Catholics unless republicans lift death threats against the family of its murdered leader by this morning. "These type of sick threats against the late Billy Wright's family will not be tolerated," said the terrorist group that has murdered several Catholics since republican inmates shot Wright in the Maze prison on December 27.

Security sources said that police had informed Wright's family last week of the death threats from an unknown republican splinter group. The Irish National Liberation Army, which killed Wright, yesterday denied issuing the threats against his family. "The LVF does not recognise the current ceasefire. Last week it said that it would kill only 'known republicans', but security sources believe it said that under pressure and could use the threats against Wright's family as an excuse to return to violence." U.A. Unionist councillor in Londonderry has gone into hiding after a death threat from an unidentified source. Northern Ireland's Department of the Environment has suspended road, gritting, services in parts of Co Armagh after receiving threats against Protestant workmen.

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Guide to how your council is financed

By Mark Henderson

THE first plain English guide to the way local government is financed was released yesterday to coincide with the Government's announcement of final levels of support to be given to councils in 1998-9. The guide, which has been awarded a Crystal mark for clarity from the Plain English Campaign, aims to help council taxpayers to understand some of the most arcane jargon in British public life, which has been known to baffle ministers and even civil servants. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, when promising the guide in the House of Commons in December, hinted at his own difficulties with some of the more obscure terms, raising his eyebrows at concepts such as "passporting". That, says the guide, is "a way in which the Government can make sure that spending increases in the major service areas can actually feed through to local authorities' maximum budget requirements". It has explanations for aggregate external finance, total standard spending, a standard spending assessment, the revenue support grant, non-domestic rates, how council taxes are set and how capping works.

Ministers ought to travel solo, says Labour MP

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A SENIOR Labour MP said yesterday that the practice of ministers taking spouses or partners on official trips overseas was outdated and should be scrapped. Tony Wright, parliamentary private secretary to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, made it clear that he was not referring to any specific case. He told Radio 4's Today programme: "I can't for the life of me see why we still live in an age where partners of any variety are required to travel with Cabinet ministers. I don't imagine they are required to travel with BBC executives or anybody else. It seems absurd." He could understand why the spouse of a Prime Minister might join in certain state occasions, but not the routine expectation that Cabinet ministers, and indeed junior ministers, are being accompanied by partners of whatever variety - it seems to belong to a different age, and completely indefensible." Doing away with the practice would "solve the problem at a stroke," he said. Downing Street and the Lord Chancellor's department were taking a relaxed attitude to Dr Wright's remarks, although Lord Irvine faced criticism a fortnight ago over the cost of a visit with his wife to Trinidad and Tobago. Dr Wright, MP for Cannock Chase, told The Times that he was "particularly not referring to that visit". Partners should "by all means" go with ministers for social reasons or "the joy of travel", he said, but routine travel looked back to a "bygone age" where partners were seen as appendages, and ministers travelled with cooks and gardeners as well. When it was suggested to him that ministers had to take their partners overseas or they would never see them, Dr Wright said that if ministers had to go to China to see their partners, "it indicates something wrong with your relationship or domestic arrangements". Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has been accompanied abroad by his partner, Gaynor Regan. Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, last night called on Mr Cook to appear in tomorrow's short Commons debate on the termination of the employment of his former diary secretary Anne Bullen. Mr Howard said: "He is the only person in possession of all the facts." William Hague promised to keep up the attack, saying: "We are not criticising him on his private life. We are asking questions about the relationship between his private life and public duties."

Mass breath testing planned

Continued from page 1 years. The document specifically compares the move to the passing of section 60 of the 1994 Justice and Public Order Act, which granted powers to stop and search in a specific area for up to 48 hours. A senior police officer would have to authorise the targeting of a premises or an area. Police would then be able to stop at random drivers leaving. Although the document ac-

knowledges the danger of police abusing their powers, it says that the Government believes "there may be a case for allowing police officers to require a breath test without prior suspicion if that power is used only for a specified period at a particular location where it is known that there may be a problem on the authority of a senior officer". Roger Peel, head of the road safety division at the Environment, Transport and the Regions Department, said:

"They could look at the cars in the pub car park at 7pm and see which are still there at closing time." The document, which is intended to spark three months of debate, makes clear that the Government is minded to reduce the drink-drive limit that has existed since 1967. A lower limit of 50 milligrammes per 100 millilitres of blood would be the equivalent of one pint of beer, compared to 25 pints with the present limit of 80mg.

Offenders are still likely to face the automatic, one-year ban that currently exists at 80mg. The paper indicates that there could be two levels of punishment, at 50mg and 80mg; but Mr Strang said yesterday he did not intend to reduce the 12-month ban even at a lower limit. Mr Strang also said that brewers and pubicans would be consulted about the effects on rural pubs. "I do not think 50mg is a practical measure, which will shut down pubs."

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Dark suit, black fedora... throw in a machinegun, and he could have passed for a Chicago hood

Wildcat got the Branson brush-off

By JOANNA BAILE AND JON ASHWORTH

GUY SNOWDEN, the Camelot director who lost his libel case against Richard Branson in the High Court yesterday, was always going to be the weak link in Camelot's multi-million-pound bid to run the National Lottery.

SNOWDEN

lotteries. GTEch, the company he co-founded in 1980 with a loan of \$1,500, has grown into the world's biggest lottery operator and supplier, making him a multimillionaire. GTEch runs 77 lotteries, including 27 in the United States. Its success at winning contracts has been followed closely by the FBI amid allegations of corruption, including suggestions of bribes to government officials. Federal grand juries have investigated GTEch's aggressive lobbying for contracts in several states, but it has never been charged with wrongdoing. Gambling is a cut-throat business in America, and GTEch has had its share of close

shaves. State lottery regulators charged with the task of policing GTEch have later been given jobs by the company, creating the impression of a "cozy" relationship. GTEch made campaign contributions to a Californian senator who was later convicted under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act. GTEch was once removed from the senator — but again the impression is of a company that sits close to the wind.

Federal grand juries in New Jersey and Texas continue to probe corruption allegations. These have been damaging — GTEch recently lost its contract to run the Texas lottery, which represented 15 per cent of company revenues and was a big contributor to profits. GTEch has tried to clean up its act by appointing former FBI officials to oversee its handling of contracts.

For Mr Snowden, winning a part in Britain's national lottery was a matter of pride. He said at the time: "Everything I have done in my life has been a dress rehearsal for this."

Mr Snowden, 52, is a self-made man. He was born in upstate New York, the son of an engineer, and learnt about lotteries through his father, whose Irish-immigrant work colleagues did the Irish hospital sweepstake. While in his twenties at IBM, he was asked to advise on computerising an off-track betting operation. Realising the potential of marrying computers with gambling, he founded GTEch with Victor Marowicz, a fellow computer expert. Within 15 years, annual sales were \$630 million.

Success brought untold riches and homes in Florida, in Massachusetts, near GTEch's headquarters, and in London, where he relocated in 1992 to oversee Camelot's bid. He was confident that his expertise, combined with that of four British companies — Rascal Electronics, ICL, De La



For Mr Snowden, winning a part in the National Lottery was a matter of pride. Now his image is in tatters

'It was great theatre. Now let's party'

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

RICHARD Branson sliced back a great draught of champagne and then proffered the glass with a face-splitting grin. "Who wants some?" he asked. After a three-week adventure in the world of the High Court, the swashbuckling hero was preparing to do one of the things he does best: he was ready to party. Mr Branson had sat through every day of his libel case, listening quietly and intently to every word. But for a man whose every act in life is accompanied by high spirits and irrepressible enthusiasm, such restraint must have been hard. His performance in the witness box had made him look almost mortal. At times under cross-examination he had been uncertain as he struggled to remember minute details from more

BRANSON

than four years ago. Even when the foreman announced that the jury had found in his favour there was just the slightest smile.

But when he came through the front doors of the Royal Courts of Justice to face a huge crowd of photographers and supporters, the flamboyance returned. For 30 seconds he appeared a little shy, just grinning with his wife, Joan, sisters Lindy and Vanessa and mother and father, Ted and Eve. Then a tentative punch of the air. And then a proper one, the one he had surely been bursting to unleash when the verdict was announced. Gone were the ums and ahs of the witness box. He spoke with fluency and passion as he unleashed his attacks on GTEch and Peter Davis. "Oh, he is handsome," said a female passer-by glimpsing the Virgin boss from a photographer's ladder.

As the victor held court, Guy Snowden pecked round the door of the courts, waiting until the coast was Branson-free. When his enemy had skipped off to the Wig and Pen public house, Mr Snowden emerged. He uttered a brief statement and was hustled into a taxi.

The press stamped to the pub, where Mr Branson already had the first bottle of champagne flowing. The tycoon was clearly feeling himself again. He said that although the judge had told him that he should go off on his round-the-world ballooning adventure as soon as he had given his evidence, his QC, the famously fierce George Carman, had said: "Over my dead body." Mr Branson said: "It has been the most fascinating theatre I have ever been to. Now we all deserve a party."

A dangerous man to cross

GUY SNOWDEN, head of GTEch, is not the first to have locked horns in court with Richard Branson and regretted it. The British billionaire was awarded £60,000 libel damages against British Airways in January, 1993, for their "dirty tricks" campaign. The national airline also had to pay Branson's £1 million legal costs and make a public apology more than two years after the Virgin boss first set out complaints alleging anti-competitive behaviour.

Claiming that BA had set up a taskforce dedicated to running a smear campaign against his airline, he alleged that dirty tricks included leaking inaccurate stories to the press, non co-operation on aircraft maintenance and

sharp sales and marketing techniques. Libel writs were processed by Branson against BA and Lord King over comments in writing that amounted to an attack on his reputation and that of Virgin. All 3,000-plus employees of Virgin Atlantic received a £166 bonus when he divided up his award.

In 1991, after a seven-year battle, Branson had been finally granted landing rights at Heathrow Airport. This latest case also sees George Carman seal his reputation as the king of libel. Other high-profile victories include those for Karan Khan, Elton John, Jason Connery and Ken Dodd. His court appearance fee is thought to be £10,000 a day.

Number may be up for controversial regulator

By JOANNA BAILE AND JON ASHWORTH



Davis accepted free flights from GTEch

THE lottery regulator, Peter Davis, who gave evidence for Guy Snowden, is unlikely to have his £84,000-a-year contract renewed by the Government when it expires in October.

The director-general of the Office of the National Lottery (Oflot) narrowly survived demands for his resignation in December 1995, when he admitted accepting free flights from GTEch, during a visit to America. In October 1994, shortly before the National Lottery went live, he further admitted staying at the Long Island home of Carl Menges,

a Wall Street investment banker and family friend, who was a director of GTEch at the time of the bid.

The Commons Public Accounts Committee accused Mr Davis of "serious errors of judgment" in accepting flights from GTEch, even though he was no longer in the critical "pre-bid" stage when he did so. The committee said: "We regard it as of vital importance that the director-general be seen by the public to be completely impartial and at arm's length from the lottery operator, its shareholders, and those with financial inter-

OFLOT

ests in them." Mr Davis awarded Camelot the licence over seven other consortiums, including Mr Branson's UK Lottery Foundation, the bookies' favourite, but admitted that he was concerned about GTEch's reputation for corruption in America. The day after announcing that Camelot had won the licence, he summoned Camelot's then chairman, Sir Ron (now Lord) Dearing, to a private meeting, warning him to keep a close watch on GTEch's activities in the UK. Later that afternoon, when Mr Branson raised concerns

about GTEch and allegedly reported the attempted bribe, Mr Davis interrupted him and said that the company had been given a "clean bill of health".

Meanwhile, Camelot's licence, which expires in 2001, is in the balance. The Government was elected on a manifesto that included a non-profit-making national lottery — the key feature of many lotteries. A National Lottery Bill proposes inviting bids that will maximise the return to good causes and remove unnecessary profit margins.

Many are concerned that, by the end of its licence, Camelot will have reaped at least £400 million that could have gone to good causes.

Despite his anger at losing to Camelot first time round, Mr Branson has said he will not bid again for the National Lottery licence. He is happy to offer his expertise to any winning consortium — provided that the lottery is run on a not-for-profit basis. The licence could well go to Camelot, but on terms that will substantially cut its profits. GTEch has threatened to withdraw if this happens.

For Camelot, the High Court verdict threatens a wor-

rying public backlash. The Government has been concerned throughout to avoid damaging public confidence in the draw, with a consequent drop in ticket sales, and less money for good causes. The spending of lottery money on "elitist" causes such as the Churchill Papers and the Royal Opera House caused uproar, and there is disquiet over the huge sums paid to Camelot's directors. All individuals and companies bidding for the licence were extensively vetted using Interpol and MI5, and the consensus was that GTEch, despite its bad reputation in America, was the best choice.

Announcing the arrival of KLM uk



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PUBLIC RECORDS

Kipling refused to believe his son was killed in action

REPORTS BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

RUDYARD KIPLING, one of the Army's greatest chroniclers, refused to believe his 18-year-old son John had been killed in action in Flanders, according to First World War records released today.

More than a year after Lieutenant John Kipling, of the newly formed 2nd Battalion Irish Guards, went missing at the Battle of Loos in September 1915, the author begged the Army to keep his son's name on its lists. Kipling's hope for the safe return of his son is revealed in the papers contained in Lieutenant Kipling's personal war record, released at the Public Record Office with those of nearly 217,000 other officers.

The author — who later devised the famous inscription "A Soldier of the Great War Known to God" used on



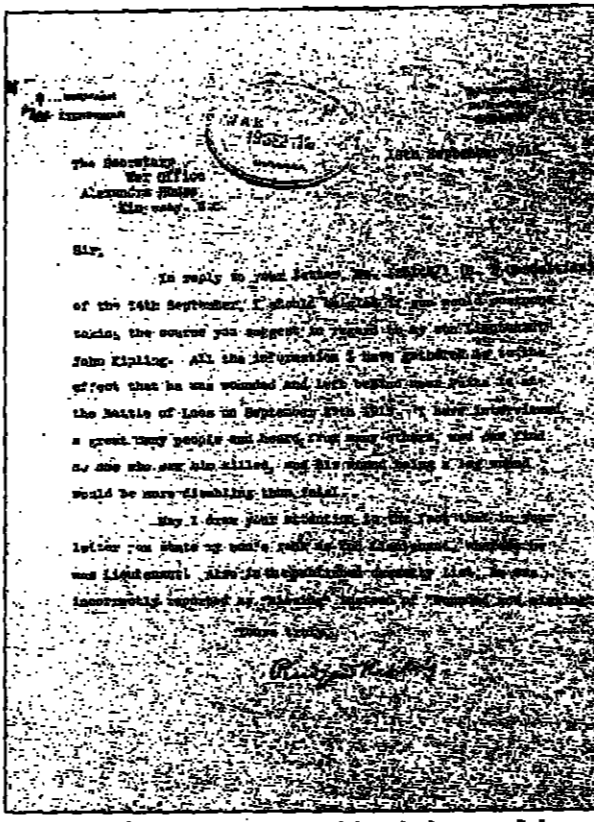
Rudyard Kipling

gravestones above unidentified bodies — did not accept the Army view that his son should be presumed dead after being missing for a year. In a letter to the Secretary of the War Office, Kipling wrote: "I have interviewed a great

many people and heard from many others, and can find no one who saw him killed, and his wound being a leg wound would be more disabling than fatal."

But the official army view was that John Kipling was killed in action. His extraordinary courage is described by a Sergeant Kinnelly in an witness account. "Mr Kipling was about 50 yards in front of his platoon and was shouting 'Come on boys!'. He was the bravest officer I ever saw and would I believe have won the VC. A couple of shrapnel burst right over his head and I saw him fall. On the way back someone said, 'Poor Mr Kipling is dead'. Then I came on Mr Kipling myself and I am sure he was dead."

John Kipling's body was never recovered. The newly



A letter from Kipling about his missing son John

released papers also show that personal condolences were sent to the family of the future Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother by Lord Kitchener when her older brother was killed in action in Flanders at the same time as

Kipling's son. The Queen Mother was a young teenager when Captain Fergus Bowes-Lyon, an officer with the Black Watch, was killed on 27 September, 1915 aged 26. His body was also never recovered.

Poet Sassoon almost faced court martial



Sassoon and Lawrence: fresh details of war service

THE war poet, Lieutenant Siegfried Sassoon, almost faced court martial and was then dismissed as a "lunatic" for writing his manifesto accusing the Army of deliberately prolonging the First World War, his Army record, released yesterday, reveals.

The records also include what is now considered to be the original and only existing "manifesto" written by Sassoon. It is dated July, 1917, and is thought to have been left on a train when he went to attend a medical board. It was during this visit that he threw his Military Cross into the River Mersey and the medical board judged that he was suffering a nervous breakdown.

It was decided not to court martial him and Sassoon was sent to an officers' hospital outside Edinburgh suffering from "neurasthenia". The following year, 1918, Sassoon returned to the front and was hit by a bullet on the right side of his head. In February, 1919, he gave up his commission.

Other records released yesterday show officials suspected that Lawrence of Arabia, one of Britain's greatest war heroes, was a secret Foreign Office agent.

One senior defence intelligence officer wrote to Field Marshal Sir William "Wally" Robertson, commander-in-chief of the imperial general staff in July, 1919, after the end of the war: "I have tried again and again to get the FO to say whether Colonel Lawrence is their man or not."

Papers also revealed how senior government officials thwarted attempts by the High Commissioner in Egypt, General Sir R. Wingate, to arrange the award of the Victoria Cross to Lawrence.

But General Wingate, in a secret telegram to the Government, pressed for Lawrence to be awarded the highest military order. He said that the Turks had put a £5,000 reward on Lawrence's head and this had "enhanced the gallantry of his exploit". When Lawrence was turned down for the VC he refused to accept his DSO.

Crisis talks over debts of Halle Orchestra

BY KATHYRN KNIGHT

THE Halle, Britain's oldest full-time professional symphony orchestra, is holding crisis meetings to avoid collapse among crippling debts, it was reported yesterday.

An report by financial experts, due to be issued tomorrow, reveals that the internationally acclaimed orchestra needs an immediate rescue package to survive a £600,000 overdraft.

In their report, management consultants KPMG are understood to attribute the crisis to poor management and lack of financial strategy. News of the Halle's problems comes only a year after the orchestra, which celebrated its 140th anniversary on January 29, moved into the £42-million Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, to enjoy a number of successful concert series and increased audiences.

Despite recent creative success, insiders suggest that the trading losses are as high as £1 million. Yesterday, Halle executives had a number of meetings ahead of talks with KPMG tomorrow. They refused to be drawn on the details but confirmed in a statement that they were experiencing financial problems.

"Since the orchestra's move to its new home, the Bridgewater Hall, the Halle has been regularly attracting audiences averaging over 80 per cent with many concerts selling out completely. This magnificent achievement, however, has been marred by ongoing problems with fixed income. Last financial year the orchestra carried forward an accumulat-

ed deficit of around £600,000. However, a spokesman said: "The Halle Orchestra has been, and is, one of the city's most prized possessions. Its reputation now stretches across the world and its contribution to the continued economic development of Greater Manchester is enormous. We are confident we will succeed."

John East, the Halle's board chairman, said he had not yet seen the report, so he could not comment, but added: "Can you tell me of any other major arts organisation in the country that is not strapped for cash?"

Bill Kerr, Manchester branch secretary of the Musicians' Union, which has 85 members in the Halle, said the orchestra's predicament was the result of "spectacularly poor management".

It may attempt a public appeal to help to secure its future. Three of Britain's leading orchestras — the Bournemouth, the Northern Sinfonia and the London Symphony — are undergoing restructuring and development with National Lottery funding.

Elby MacNamara, director of the Association of British Orchestras, said that most of them lived on a knife edge. "It is no secret that these very large orchestras, which do a fantastic job, are nevertheless very expensive to run, and in the current financial constraints they are particularly vulnerable."

It is only a matter of time before we see one of them go over the edge. But it would be a disaster to lose the Halle."

Irish warm to cool runnings

BY AUDREY MAGRE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND has sent its first full bobsleigh team to the winter Olympics. In a nation where the last heavy snow fell in 1982, the team developed their skills in a bobsleigh on wheels in a Dublin stadium.

Terry McHugh, the brakeman who will be travelling at over 80mph on an ice track at Nagano, Japan, said: "I admit that I am nervous. I won't go on the rides at the funfair because they go too fast and I get scared. But fear and pressure make you perform at your best."

For some, the entry is reminiscent of the entry by Jamaica in 1988: their story was told in the film *Cool Runnings*.

The Irish Bobsleigh Association was formed in 1986 after Larry Tracey, a Buckinghamshire businessman of Irish extraction, contacted sportsmen about setting up a team and paid for introductory training in Austria. The team practices in Innsbruck as often as possible.

Two two-man teams qualified for the 1992 Winter Olympics, placing Ireland 32nd. This year, for the first time, the four-man team has qualified, giving Ireland full representation in the event.

The team is so poorly funded that it recently borrowed ice shoes during an international competition. The International Olympic Council gave it £30,000 from its Solidarity Fund to assist minority sports in participating countries. Prince Albert of Monaco, whose mother Grace Kelly was of Irish extraction, has also given money.

Canada, Germany and Italy are favourites. The British and Jamaicans are cited as having an outside chance.

CORRECTION

Liverpool's Everyman theatre is not in receivership (leading article, January 28) and continues to trade normally.

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Navy under fire for punishing an accidental touch

By SIMON DE BRUCELLES

THE Royal Navy was accused yesterday of "dragging itself down" in the name of political correctness after an officer was fined and reprimanded for inadvertently touching a woman.

Despite the fact that neither the Wren nor anyone else present made a complaint after the incident during an off-duty drinking session, Lieutenant-Commander Donald Chalmers was court-martialled and his naval career seriously damaged.

Chalmers admitted touching Sharon Rose, 23, in the groin area but said he had "misjudged the range" while gesturing and had apologised immediately. He admitted conduct prejudicial to good order and naval discipline and was fined £300 and severely reprimanded.

The 39-year-old officer, who has 20 years' service, had been tipped for promotion to commander before his court martial. Commodore Geoffrey Elson, the director of the Maritime Defence Centre, who was called as a character witness, told the hearing at HMS Drake in Plymouth: "There is political correctness all around and the Royal Navy is dragging herself down into an area which will not do it any good with this sort of heart searching."

The married officer was second-in-command of the frigate HMS London and in charge of discipline when he joined a group of shipmates drinking in a bar in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The president of the court martial, Captain

Chalmers with a court martial of lieutenant commander that the Service is going too far in the pursuit of political correctness. Simon de Bruxelles reports

Peter Horsted, said: "Any physical contact of this type is against the discipline and breaks down the respect between officers and ratings which must exist. It can cause great distress and offence and it will not be tolerated."

"We note the female rating was not upset at the time and did not bring offence to light and that you are a very promising officer with a previous exemplary record."

Lieutenant-Commander Philip Tew, for the prosecution, said Chalmers was drinking with deck crew known as buffets at the ship's crew pub. "One of them made some comment about how they had been 'wanking their bollocks off' at which point Chalmers said Rose could not work here off because he did not have any," Lieutenant Commander Tew said. "At that point the accused put his right hand towards Wren Rose's groin and touched her - making a 'squeezing motion'."

The Navy's Special Investigation Branch flew to meet the ship in Puerto Rico and Chalmers was interviewed. He confirmed he had touched the Wren in the groin area.

"He said he had not meant to make physical contact and that he had consumed six bottles of beer and had misjudged the range between

himself and Rose. The prosecution accepts there was nothing sexual in the gesture."

Lieutenant-Commander Andrew Spence, in mitigation, said: "This is at the trivial end of this type of offence. This was not a grope, it was a touch and it was a pure accident and he apologised immediately."

"The Wren involved was not distressed at all and did not report the incident. She says it was just banter and she laughed it off."

Last week Lieutenant-Commander David Bellingham, principal welfare officer on HMS London's sister ship the Coventry was cleared by a court martial of seven charges of harassing Wrens.



Briton Andy Elson repairing a leak outside the gondola on Saturday. His efforts might have been in vain

China has Orbiter's fate up in the air

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE fate of the round-the-world balloon challenge by Breitling Orbiter 2 was in doubt yesterday as China appeared to maintain its refusal to allow the balloon to fly over its territory.

British and Belgian diplomats as well as the International Red Cross, the US television station CNN, and the International Olympic Committee, a sponsor, were involved in the attempt to convince Beijing to let Orbiter proceed. Flavio Cotti, the Swiss foreign minister, was expected to raise the topic with Li Lanqing, a Chinese vice-premier who arrived in Switzerland yesterday.

Without a change of heart by China, Orbiter's circumnavigation is likely to fail. It would use too much fuel if it tried to fly further south.

On Saturday, Andy Elson, the British flight engineer, climbed outside the cabin to fix a leaky hatch.

Tesco toes the line in sock price war

By Simon Stace

TESCO has admitted defeat in a tit-for-tat price war with a small local sports shop and has agreed to pay hundreds of pounds to shoppers as a result of a "price promise" promotion.

Dean Brown, who owns Essential Sports in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, was furious when the supermarket giant started selling Nike sports socks at a discount. He responded by selling them for 1p a pair, undercutting Tesco by £7.98.

He then encouraged shoppers to buy the socks from Tesco, whose guarantee under its "price promise" was

that it would refund the difference if the same product was cheaper elsewhere.

James Clarke has been scheduled £89.99 after buying 12 pairs of the socks for £89.99 from the Tesco store and then claiming his refund. He said: "They have had to pay out £6.99 on every pair of 63 Nike socks sold during the sports shop sale."

Mr Brown, the sports shop owner, said: "I just wanted to put the sock on the other foot."

Tesco said: "We were happy to honour our 'unbeatable value' pledge. We intend to continue giving our customers great value."

Bulgaria in Crisis
The European Children's Trust Appeal for Bulgaria

LEFT TO FREEZE
Children like Yordan, 13, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this January unless aid reaches them now. With temperatures plummeting to -15° Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to buy him overcoats. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.

Cold weather alert

**No Money To Feed The Children
No Money To Heat The Orphanages**

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Now thousands of children are suffering terribly as winter reaches its coldest point. Urgent help is needed.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need.

Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 200386 NOW.

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Signature _____ Date _____

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My miracle new face, by victim of mugging

By PAUL WILKINSON

DOCTORS have rebuilt the face of a man who was so badly injured in a mugging that close friends were unable to recognise him.

Roger Goodwin, a civil servant, spent eight hours in the operating theatre as surgeons peeled back his face to insert 14 metal plates to hold his shattered skull together. Old family photographs were their only guide to restoring his features.

Yesterday Mr Goodwin, 28, said: "What they have done for me is a miracle. My face is a little broader and I have a bit of a boxer's nose but overall my appearance hasn't changed a great deal."

As a result of his injuries the centre of his face became disconnected from his skull. Broken and splintered bones in his nose, cheeks and mouth were reconnected using the plates and dozens of tiny metal screws. His jaw was then reset — for weeks, he survived on a liquid diet.

Mr Goodwin spent three months off work after the



Peter Thomson, left, led the eight-hour operation to rebuild Roger Goodwin's face. The plates holding his skull together can be seen in the X-ray, right

attack outside Tynemouth metro station, near his home on North Tyneside, a year ago. Yesterday he praised the work of the team at Newcastle upon Tyne Dental School. He said: "I suffered some pretty horrifying injuries. When a work colleague came to visit me he walked straight past my bed. At the time I didn't realise how badly injured I was

because it was some time before I looked in the mirror. "I don't remember much about the mugging itself. I didn't see anyone as I got off the Metro train and walked towards the exit but it crossed my mind that it seemed very quiet. The next thing I remember was waking up in Newcastle General Hospital the following morning." Police

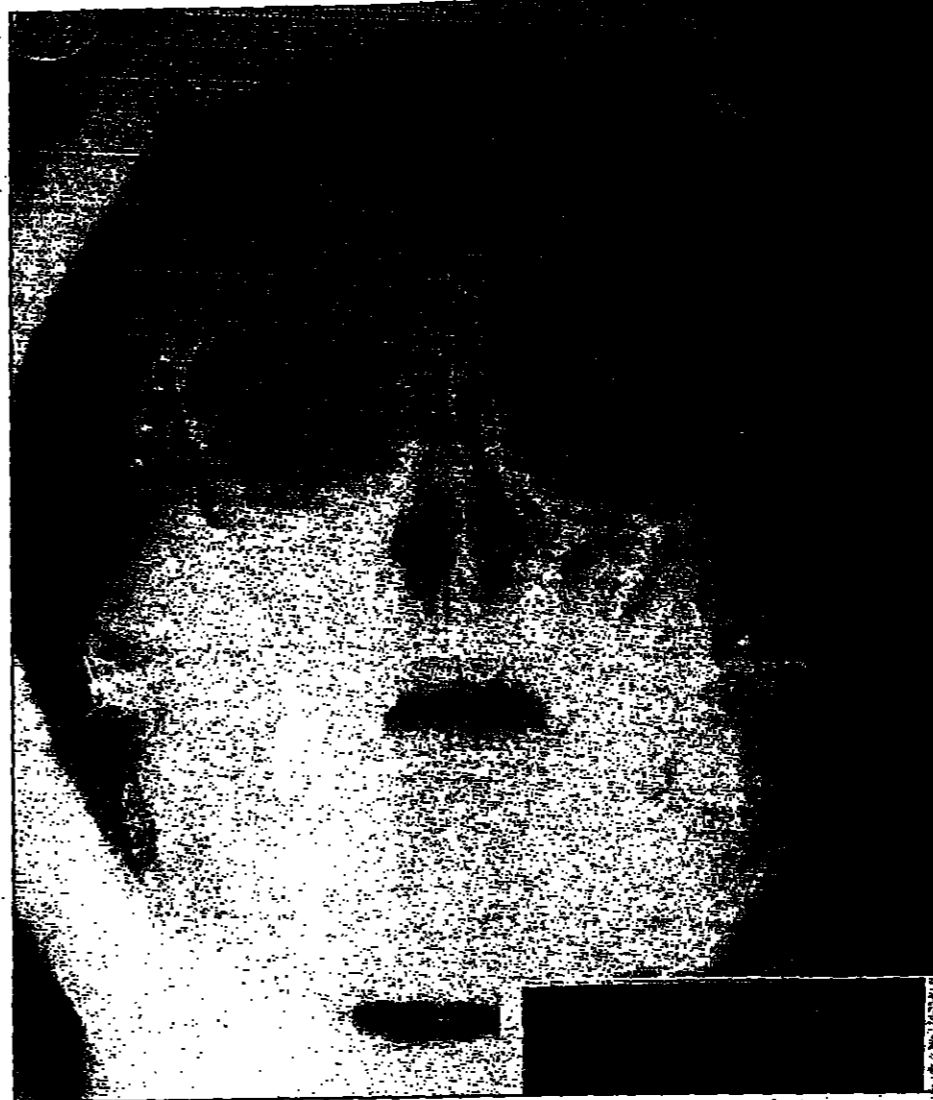
suspect he was beaten with a baseball bat.

Mr Goodwin said: "They left my cash card and money but took a bunch of keys. They were found later thrown away in a garden. The longer it goes on, the less likely they are to be caught."

"I am fortunate that I am not badly scarred and lucky, as well, that I haven't suffered badly from the psychological effects. If I had a vision in my mind of the people who did it I would constantly be looking out for them but I remember very little."

"I still use the Metro. The way I look at it, the chances of it happening again are about the same as winning the lottery."

Professor Peter Thomson, head of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Newcastle upon Tyne Dental School, said: "Without surgery a person would be left with horrible deformities, such as fallen eyes and huge dents in the cheek bones. It can lead to double vision because there is no support for the eyes."



Stroke risk reduced by aspirin booster

By NICK NUTTALL

THE danger of a heart attack or a stroke is reduced dramatically if those at risk take a booster supplement of aspirin twice a month, scientists said yesterday.

Until now, many people at risk have been advised to take a daily low dose of aspirin of about 75 milligrams. But a new study by American and Spanish medical researchers indicates that the full benefits of the common household drug are not being reaped.

The findings, published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association, Circulation*, indicate that aspirin will work even more effectively if a 325 milligram booster is taken twice a month.

Professor Aaron Marcus, of Cornell University School of Medicine and the leader of the research, said yesterday: "The goal of our work is to improve the asymptotic response to aspirin." He was prescribing all his patients a daily "baby aspirin" with a booster of 325 mg on the 1st and 15th of the month.

Companies unwilling to develop new cancer test

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NEW technique that could save thousands of women from unnecessarily extensive breast surgery is unlikely to be available for at least a decade because no company is prepared to obtain a licence to market it.

The technique, the first to enable a doctor to tell whether breast cancer has spread into the lymph nodes under the arm, has been developed at the breast unit in Saint Bartholomew's Hospital in London. Clinical tests have found it to be more than 90 per cent accurate in detecting even the smallest cancers, which currently can be found only during a mastectomy.

Around 30 per cent of women diagnosed with a breast cancer also have cancer of the lymph glands, which are too small to be felt and do not show up in X-rays or scans. If the cancer has spread to these glands, the patient could die if they are not removed.

Because the only way until now of finding out if the lymph glands are cancerous has been to remove them, surgeons tend to take them out as a precaution. Thousands of the 34,500 women diagnosed with breast cancer each year have a mastectomy, including removal of the lymph glands. Many of the glands are removed needlessly. Moreover, the operation often has side-effects, causing swelling of the arm.

The new technique involves injecting a patient with a special antibody that is designed to target and stick to

cancer cells. These antibodies have been primed with a tiny amount of radioactivity. Pictures of the breast area are taken with a gamma camera after 24 hours. A computer then compares the two images. If cancer is present, the radioactivity in the antibody shows up in the second picture, making it easy for a computer to identify it and judge its severity.

Keith Britton, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund nuclear medicine unit at the hospital, said: "Unfortunately, the market for the antibody is only tiny and no company has come forward yet. Unlike a new drug for something like hypertension, which needs to be taken daily, the commercial market for our advance is very small as each patient only needs a very tiny amount once in a lifetime."

"One has to take this technique, licence it, carry out a commercial study and pass all kinds of regulatory hurdles. As an academic you can take it to a certain level, but it is a phenomenon of the modern age that full development has to come from a commercial basis," he added.

Rob Carpenter, the surgeon who founded the hospital's breast unit, said the uncertainty facing a woman diagnosed with breast cancer could be overwhelming. "Not knowing before an operation whether the cancer has spread can be very disturbing and disruptive and something like this that removes that uncertainty is beneficial."



Mr Carpenter and Professor Britton, right, say that many lymph glands are removed needlessly

Consultant misread smears as normal

By IAN MURRAY

ALMOST 200 women have been recalled for re-screening after a study found that a consultant had wrongly reported their cervical smears as normal.

The review of 317 smears read by the consultant at Lincoln County Hospital between 1993 and 1997 found 146 women with moderate to severe abnormalities who had originally been cleared. Of

those, 34 have received follow-up treatment and 112 have been asked back for further examinations. Another 34, whose smears showed mild abnormalities, have been asked to take another smear next. It is not yet known if any of the women have cancer. The consultant pathologist involved is no longer checking smear tests at the hospital and is currently on sick leave for reasons that have nothing to do with the misreporting.



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THE TIMES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1998

Diana villagers have Royal Mail licked

Stamps to commemorate Princess have inspired community to stick together for the shop she once minded, Daniel McGrory reports

THE cluttered village post office where the teenage Lady Diana Spencer shopped for chocolate is upstaging the Royal Mail today by issuing its own first-day covers of the five special stamps on sale to commemorate her life. The enterprise has kept many of Great Brington's 130 residents busy in the village hall for a week, licking thousands of stamps.

The Post Office expects to sell more than 60 million stamps. Christine Whaley, 52, the village postmistress, is offering 10,000 first-day sets at £10 each. Earl Spencer gave permission for the local enterprise, which is expected to find avid collectors and the merely curious queuing outside the shop.

Mrs Whaley, mother of the Radio 1 disc jockey Jo Whaley, has run the post office near Althorp House, Northamptonshire, for 20 years. She said: "Diana has a special place in our hearts, so it is nice to be able to produce our own tribute. Before she got married, she would come in every day to buy chocolate and stop for a chat. She was someone you warmed to immediately. One time, I even asked her to mind the shop while I popped out the back."

The white envelopes are hand-franked with the Althorp coat of arms, entwined by flowers in a design produced by a local artist. Half the profit is going to the Princess's Memorial Fund, and the rest will be kept by the shop. Mr Whaley said: "This

isn't being done for money. We produced our own first-day cover for the Royal Wedding so this seemed fitting. We thought that here, above all, we should do something different to commemorate Diana's life."

Mrs Whaley spent £18,000 on stamps, envelopes and paying villagers: "We have been paying people to stick on stamps and put the envelopes in cellophane presentation cases. It is not going to make us millionaires."

All the country's Post Offices have been sent six times their normal supplies for the five first-class stamps going on sale today. Officials say they expect to sell more than the record 60 million, sold for the Royal Wedding.

"Nobody will get rich on buying them as collectors' items," a Post Office spokesman said. "They will be a keepsake for many, but so many will be printed that they will never be a rarity."

Mrs Whaley, however, is ensuring the rarity of her enterprise. "We have already had 1,000 requests, so we may print a few more, but we want to maintain its rarity. We won't be manufacturing thousands for the summer visitors to Althorp. This is for collectors and fans of the Princess and not speculators. Experts tell me 10,000 is too few, but I'm panic-stricken that after spending all this money we won't sell them all."

Lord Spencer will make no money from this enterprise, but readily agreed to let artist



Stamp of authority: some of the special first-day covers, approved by Lord Spencer, with the Althorp design

Richard Barnard, 71, use the Althorp family home for the design. The retired art lecturer said: "I designed the first-day cover for the wedding so I'm delighted to follow on from that."

Christine managed to get permission to use the Althorp coat of arms, which was a coup, so the obvious thing for me to do was use the Althorp House building.

"I used a grid to express the gates of the house. I weighed up whether to use the flowers. In the end I decided to use them as a kind of hieroglyph. I wanted to reflect the desire of the population at large to express their grief by going out there and pushing flowers through the gate, which they are still doing."

Mrs Whaley and her sister, Geraldine Arterton, wrote a tribute to Diana on the back of the cover which describes Althorp but also in two sentences encapsulates the Princess's life there.

"It was hard to compose that in so few words, but in the end we said: 'Althorp was the teenage home of the former Lady Diana Spencer. Following her marriage and subsequent divorce from HRH Prince Charles, she became known as Diana, Princess of Wales. After her premature, tragic death aged 36, an island in the ornamental lake became her final resting place. A museum celebrating the life and work of Diana, Princess of Wales, will be set up by her brother Earl Spencer in the 250-year-old

stable block at Althorp House."

The Royal Mail's stamps feature five portraits of the Princess. The Post Office has already guaranteed a donation of at least £6 million to the Princess's Memorial Fund.

The issue of these stamps was delayed until Lord Spencer gave permission, but a spokesman said of the project in his own village: "He is very happy this should happen, as it will be to the benefit of the Memorial Fund and the local

community." Steve Matthews, a buyer and valuer for the stamp dealers Stanley Gibbons, said of the village covers: "They will be enormously popular and a modestly priced keepsake, but there are too many to be much of an

investment: £10 is a lot for a local cover. The price may go up a few pence in the first couple of days when supplies run out, but if you look at it for an investment then the best you can expect is your money back."

New test to foil spaghetti forgers

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE days of counterfeit pasta may be over. British scientists have developed a test that can distinguish between pasta made from high quality durum and cheaper, common, wheat. The move is aimed at cracking down on what is claimed to be a multi-million-pound fraud.

Martin Griffin, of Nottingham Trent University, one of the centres involved in the research, said yesterday: "Adulteration of pasta by common wheat is a matter of concern both in the European Union and United States because it reduces the quality of the pasta and has been difficult to detect."

A spokeswoman for the university said with common wheat flour at half the price of durum "there is a great temptation to cheat and it is easy to get away with it".

The new test, developed with the Laboratory of the Government Chemist, the French Agricultural Council, the University of Milan, Italian pasta maker Barilla and EC cash, hinges on the discovery of a protein found in common wheat but not durum, and uses an antibody to reveal whether the protein is present in the pasta.



First-class effort: two of the team, Aileen Dobson and Diana Lawrence, at work in the village hall

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Hague leads fight against urban sprawl

Jill Sherman on the Tory leader's save-the-countryside call for more building to be on brownfield sites

WILLIAM HAGUE called yesterday for two thirds of new housing to be built in towns and cities as hundreds of people joined him to launch a nationwide campaign to protect the countryside.

Mr Hague's demand follows growing alarm at the Government's admission that at least 4.4 million houses will have to be built in the next 18 years, with a large proportion on greenfield sites. Urging people of every political persuasion to join forces against the threat of urban sprawl he said that the campaign marked "the day when Britain fought back" against the destruction of its countryside.

The Conservative Party manifesto said that 60 per cent of development would go on brownfield sites, such as derelict or previously developed land, rather than open countryside. Yesterday the Tory leader said this should rise to two thirds.

The Government has meanwhile put aside its own target of 50 per cent of new building to be on brownfield sites while it undertakes an audit on the amount of urban land available. It has also provoked public outrage by allowing green-belt development outside Newcastle-upon-Tyne and is in favour of allowing more than 12,000 homes to be built in West Sussex.

Mr Hague's campaign appeal, which was made in a green-belt area outside

Stevenage in Hertfordshire, was supported by hundreds of residents who are angry about the local authority's proposal to allow 10,000 homes on fields that have been protected for 50 years. The site, beside a private airfield between Stevenage and Hitchin, has a 16th century farmhouse — the oldest working example of its kind in the county — that will be surrounded by houses if the scheme goes ahead.

"Today will mark the day when Britain fought back against the threat to the countryside and to urban areas from this Government's plans," Mr Hague said. "This issue is one which unites Britain, regardless of party politics."

But John Prescott, the Environment Secretary and Deputy Prime Minister, accused Mr Hague of "breath-taking hypocrisy". He said that Hertfordshire was responding to housing figures imposed by the previous Tory Government and both the county council and the planning inspector had approved the Stevenage development. Mr Prescott also claimed that the Tories had overruled councils in Kent, Berkshire and Bedfordshire to impose higher levels of housing than they wanted.

"The Tories had 18 years to come up with an answer on this and they failed," Mr Prescott said. "In the Eighties, they unleashed an unprece-



William Hague with protesters against plans to build 10,000 houses in the countryside near Stevenage. John Prescott accused him of hypocrisy.

ented splurge in out-of-town developments on greenfield sites."

One of the residents opposing the plan is John Urwin, an engineer aged 50 from Hitchin, who says that he voted for Labour at the general election. "This is all about greed and power by the old Labour council in Stevenage," he said.

"If this development goes ahead, the poor people will end up in social housing near the main road and get all the pollution while the BMW

drivers will be in the luxury houses on the fields."

Bill Bowker, who owns the private airfield adjoining the site, urged Mr Prescott to think again. "This is tragic. Once these fields are built on, they will be destroyed forever."

Simon Festing, housing campaigner for Friends of the Earth, warned Labour that it could lose millions of votes to the Tories when the public saw the countryside "disappearing under concrete". He said that Mr Prescott should

reverse his unpopular decisions to allow green-belt development and stop forcing shire counties to accept higher housing targets.

Sir Norman Fowler, Shadow Environment Secretary and Tim Yeo, his deputy, were also launching the campaign in the West Midlands. Sir Norman is angry at proposed industrial development on green-belt land near his Sutton Coldfield constituency.

"No green-belt area is safe when government ministers push through such arbitrary

decisions," he said. "We intend to carry on fighting."

Landowners gave a warning yesterday that they would consider taking legal action for violation of their human rights if a statutory "right to roam" were imposed on them without compensation (Michael Hornby writes).

Anthony Bosanquet, deputy president of the Country Landowners' Association, said: "We share the Government's objective of improving public access to the countryside, and we firmly believe that a substan-

tial increase in public access can be secured through voluntary efforts. A right to roam is unnecessary."

The association said it was drawing up "access registers", detailing all the private land to which the public had been given access by landowners over and above that provided by public rights of way. The initiative follows reports at the weekend that the Government had backed away from a pre-election commitment to legislate for a right to roam over uncultivated land.

Tories back hunt march

By MICHAEL MORSE

ORGANISERS of next month's Countryside March say they have been inundated with requests from leading Tories, including William Hague, to take part. But the Countryside Alliance, the main force behind the March, is anxious to prevent the demonstration being seen as politically partisan.

Janet George, spokeswoman for the alliance, formerly the British Fields Sports Society, said: "We're extremely grateful for the support of leading Tories, but we hope that MPs of all parties who care about the countryside will want to take part. It's a pro-countryside march, not an anti-government march."

The organisers are predicting that even more people will take part in the march than the 100,000-120,000 estimated to have attended the rally in Hyde Park last July.

The event is timed to take place a few days before Michael Foster's anti-hunting Private Member's Bill reaches its report stage in the Commons. The Bill is expected to fail, but the Government has not ruled out including a hunting ban in future legislation.

Labour's rural MPs show their strength

By NICHOLAS WOOD

LABOUR MPs are determined to stop William Hague hijacking Middle England's growing anxieties about the threat to the countryside posed by plans for millions of new homes.

A green brigade of newly elected Labour MPs, many sitting on small majorities in rural seats, are demanding that most of the next wave of housebuilding be on brownfield sites in towns and cities.

Analysis of the 69 Labour MPs in the vanguard of the green belt shows that all but a few are political virgins, swept to Westminster on the high tide of Tony Blair's stunning victory. And two thirds of the group represent seats that were previously Tory or Liberal Democrat.

Phil Woolas, who wrestled the semi-rural seat of Oldham East and Saddleworth off the Lib Dems last May and who defends a perilous 3,389 majority, is in no doubt of the significance of the newcomers' show of strength.

"These are the seats we need to hold on to to stay in power," he said. "We have to respond to the huge concern and anger about the erosion of semi-rural Britain. We've got the time and the political will."

The Commons motion was carefully worded, "welcoming" the debate on the future of housing. But the message was clear: ministers would have to do more to protect greenfield sites.

The concerned MPs have



Organ has held frank talks with ministers

been meeting ministers, and the Government has started to respond, not least by rethinking the "predict and provide" approach that threatens open spaces with up to 5.5 million new homes by 2016.

Diana Organ ended 18 years of Tory dominance in the Forest of Dean and now sits on a vulnerable majority of 6,343. But she has another figure on her mind — plans by the builders Heron to put up 2,500 "executive" houses at Sedbury Park.

Ms Organ said that the modern Labour Party, differed from the urban-dominated creature of the 1960s and 1970s. "We are representing wholly rural areas like the Forest of Dean or areas with semi-rural parts to them. If we're going to be a Government of the whole nation, a Government that is aware of the needs and aspirations of

rural people, then we have got to face this problem that we have inherited from the past 18 years.

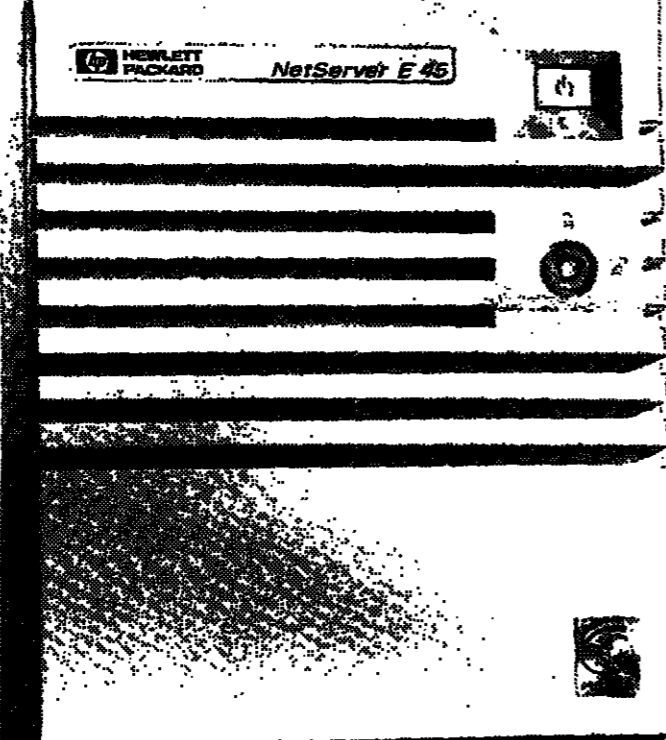
"I was elected to represent the people of the Forest of Dean and people are saying that this is not the kind of housing we want. We want good quality social housing. We don't want our green fields gobbled up by developer-led aspirational building."

Ms Organ, who has held "frank" private meetings with Richard Caborn, the Minister for the Regions, said that her fellow signatories to the Commons motion were all facing similar problems.

David Drew, who overcame a 10,581 Tory majority in Stroud, has put his head over the parapet by becoming co-chairman of the all-party parliamentary group dedicated to defending the countryside. He said that there had always been a rural strand in the Labour Party, but only since May had it been represented in the Commons.


By and large, Labour's countryside campaigners have been working behind the scenes to persuade ministers such as John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr Caborn to rethink planning policies. "There have been tensions because it's not an easy problem to deal with," Mr Drew said. "But ministers are welcoming the robustness of the way we have put our point of view across."

"The message is that we are now a rural constituency as well as an urban one. We're not expecting miracles. We're just expecting to be listened to and some tweaking of the policy."



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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON THE VOTING SYSTEM

The Independent Commission on the Voting System, chaired by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, is seeking views on alternatives to the current "first-past-the-post" system of elections to the House of Commons.

The Commission would welcome reasoned submissions in writing from any person or organisation interested in the subject.

The Commission's terms of reference are:

"The Commission will be free to consider and recommend any appropriate system or combination of systems in recommending an alternative to the present system for Parliamentary elections to be put before the people in the Government's referendum."

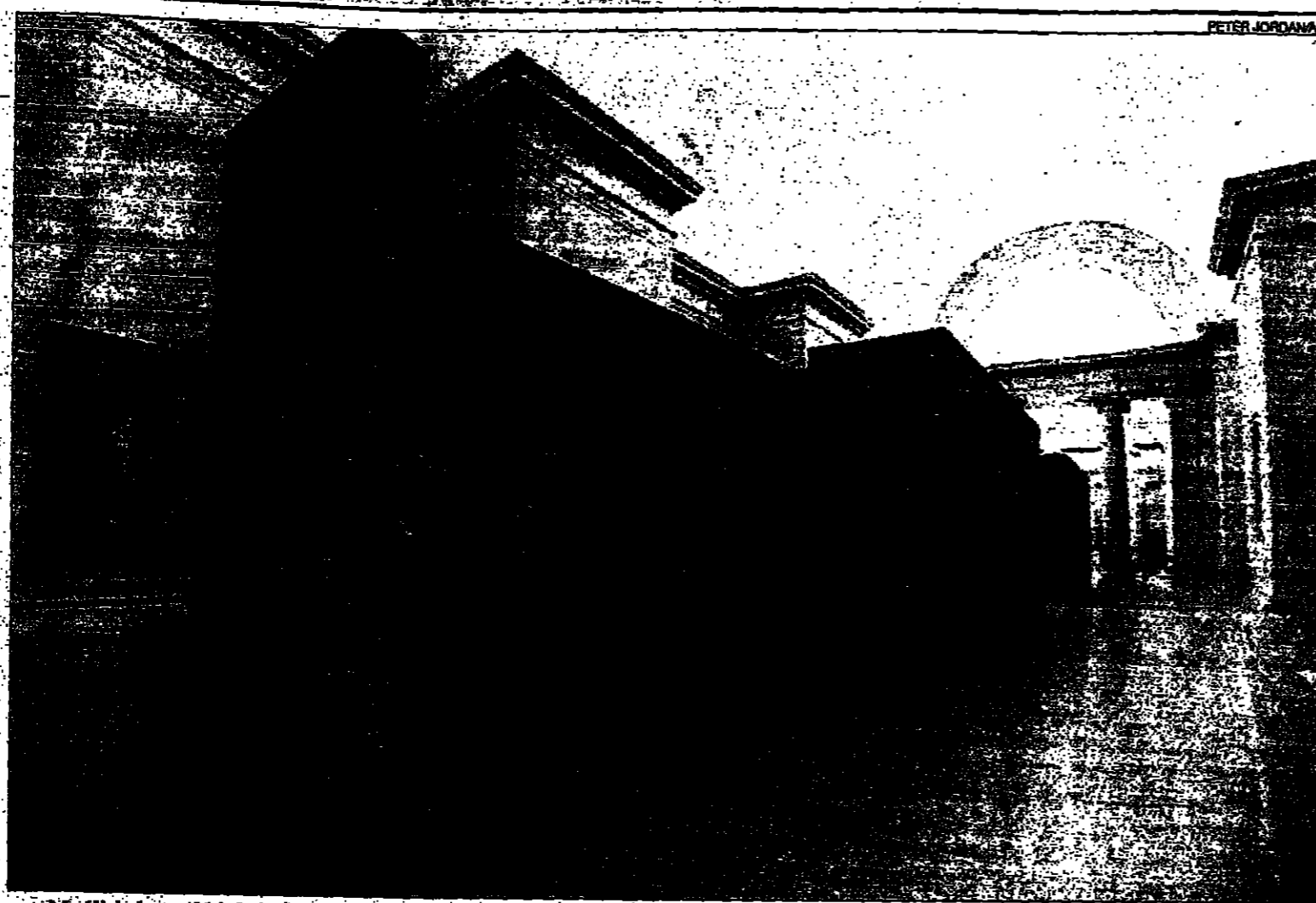
The Commission shall observe the requirement for broad proportionality, the need for stable government, an extension of voter choice and the maintenance of a link between MPs and geographical constituencies."

Written submissions should be brief, and sent soon (before the end of February, if at all possible) to the Independent Commission on the Voting System at:

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or e-mailed to: votingcom@hollis.demon.co.uk

سكزا من الدول

صكذامن الاحل



Mr Kirkeby and his brick wall at the Tate yesterday. He specialises in large sculptures which he describes as "buildings of no function"

Tate builds on its reputation for bricks

By Carol Midgley

BRICKS returned to haunt the Tate Gallery in London yesterday 26 years after Carl Andre's "pile of bricks" outraged art critics. This time the work is a 4 metre high wall by Per Kirkeby, a Danish artist commissioned by the gallery.

The 30-metre-long structure, made of four separate sections through which visitors are encouraged to wander, is much larger than Mr Andre's work, which lay on the floor. Mr Kirkeby, 59, who has created more than 100 brick structures, said: "People say bricks are not art, bricks are bricks. But then paintings are just made of paint. Materials are just materials, but you can use them in a way that what comes out of it is art."

The structure is four walls running along the centre of one gallery. On the gallery walls are several of Mr Kirkeby's paintings and the idea is for the viewer to emerge from between the walls to get a different per-



Carl Andre's "pile of bricks" that outraged art critics when they were shown at the Tate in 1972

spective of the paintings, rather than standing in front of them.

Sean Rainbird, curator of the exhibition, said: "What it does is make you look at the paintings in a certain way." Brick sculptures are enjoying a minor renaissance. A £4 million sculpture of a train made of house bricks was unveiled at Darlington station last year. Mr

Kirkeby's exhibition is one of a series of contemporary works commissioned by the Tate over the past few years.

The work took a team of eight bricklayers two weeks to complete, using 20,000 bricks donated by manufacturers Istock. Also on show is a collection of Mr Kirkeby's bronze casts.

Galleries, page 35

Farmer shot friend with humane killer

By a Correspondent

A FARMER accidentally shot his best friend with a humane killer after trying to kill a troublesome cow, a court was told yesterday. Roger Voyle twice missed the heifer but shot Michael Spencer through the heart, the prosecution said.

Kevin Riordan said that Mr Spencer, 51, regularly worked on the Voyle's farm near Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, and was regarded as one of the family. Mr Voyle, 33, had agreed to slaughter a neighbour's Limousin cow and borrowed a home-made humane killer from a professional slaughterman.

The gun was a cut-down sports rifle supposed to be fired only with the barrel touching the cow's head. "The cow was known to be nervous and agitated and at one point tried to climb over a gate," Mr Riordan told Swansea Crown Court.

Mr Voyle had missed completely with his first shot. "He reloaded and made a second attempt which hit Mr Spencer in the chest. He was killed almost immediately," Mr Riordan said. "This system of slaughter was manifestly unsafe and exposed Mr Spencer to unnecessary and highly

dangerous risks." Mr Voyle had a duty of care towards Mr Spencer and was grossly negligent, he added. Mr Voyle had denied manslaughter.

Roger Burns, a forensic scientist, said that the gun was of minimal accuracy at any distance.

Christopher Vosper, for the defence, argued that the only account of what had happened had come from Mr Voyle himself. The evidence suggested that the animal had been frightened by the first shot and had run towards a gate.

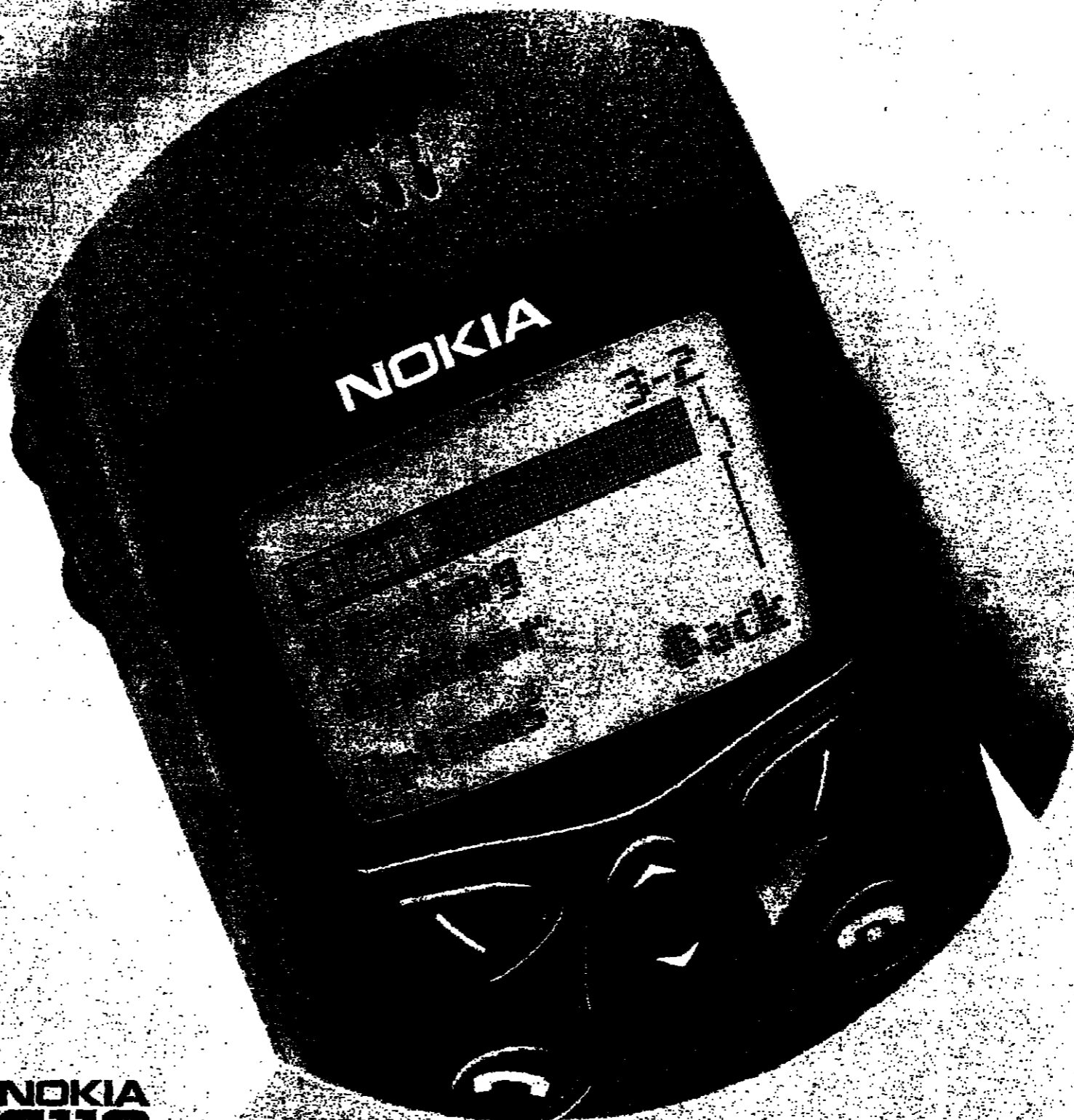
Mr Voyle had been trying to catch the cow when the gun went off a second time. He was not then in the process of trying to slaughter the heifer and was therefore not negligent.

Mr Justice Thomas ruled that the prosecution had failed to prove the fatal shooting was part of the process of slaughtering the cow. He instructed the jury to find Mr Voyle not guilty.

Mr Voyle admitted possessing a firearm without a licence and was fined £250. He was also ordered to pay £40 costs.

Mr Vosper said Mr Voyle had received tremendous support both from his own family and that of Mr Spencer.

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Law against ageism fraught with legal risks, says minister

MINISTERS are pressing ahead with a voluntary code of practice to banish age discrimination despite calls for legislation to outlaw the problem.

Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, said that the introduction of a specific law was fraught with legal problems and hoped that the voluntary code would change attitudes among businesses. Age Concern, which, in the first age discrimination week, is campaigning for legislation, said it was disappointed that a new law was not being introduced. A Gallup survey for the charity estimated that more than 18 million adults had experienced age discrimination in employment, health or welfare.

It found that 70 per cent of the population believed age discrimination existed, while only half of those who reported it were aged over 45, showing that it is a problem which affects most ages. The voluntary code will

CHARITY ACCUSED

The Red Cross was accused of ageism yesterday after sacking a shop manager for being too old. Dot Whitehead, 66, was told she would be replaced after 18 years at the charity's shop in Westbury, Wiltshire, despite turning a profit of more than £20,000 last year. The 15 volunteers who worked for her walked out in protest. The charity said its policy was to replace managers with paid professionals whenever a lease was renewed.

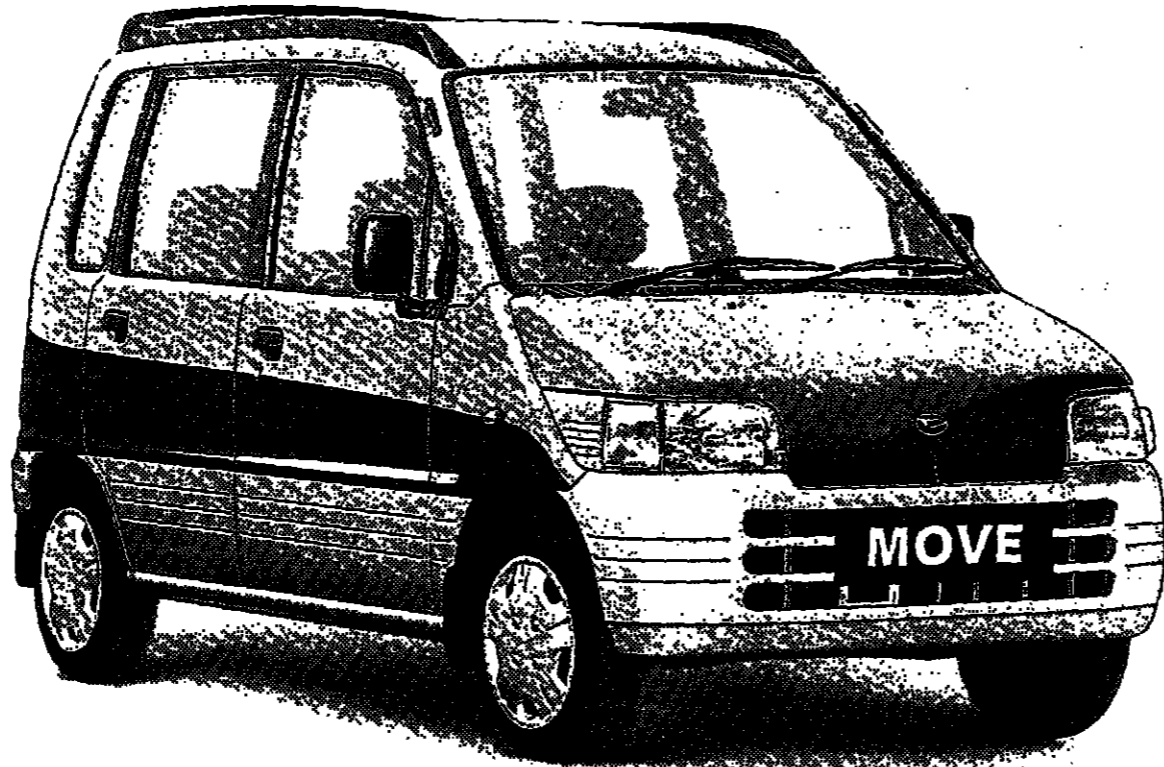
bate on a Private Member's Bill to remove age limits from recruitment adverts. The Government is not expected to support the Bill, which is sponsored by Linda Fernham, the Labour MP for Ilford North, although Mr Smith said it was an opportunity to raise the profile of the issue. Speaking on the Jimmy Young show on Radio 2 yesterday, he said that legislation could lead to "a legal minefield", although it was not ruled out for the future. There would be a question of how to define unfair discrimination in legal terms, and there was also a "very fundamental issue" of whether that would apply to the state retirement age itself.

In advertisements, for example, employers might use "code words" for youth, like "dynamic" or "newly qualified". "If you try to define and take legal action on the basis of that, we could be setting up quite a bureaucracy and quite a burden on business," he said. (PA News)



Point of view: Sally Greengross, director-general of Age Concern England, which is campaigning for legislation, with the charity's poster yesterday at the start of age discrimination week. Pearl Reid, the model featured in the charity's national poster campaign, is 56 years old

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Avon wetlands listing protects swans' habitat

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PART of the Avon valley in Hampshire and Dorset was yesterday listed as a wetlands site of international importance, protecting 1,300 hectares for the Bewick swans and kingfishers there.

Two other areas, the Caithness lochs in Scotland and Anglesey and Llyn fees in Wales, were also listed as Ramsar sites, a designation which provides safeguards against the development of sensitive locations.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, announced the Avon Valley's listing on a visit to Barn Elms, wetlands centre in West London to mark World Wetlands Day. He said the Government was launching a strategy to include protection of wetlands as part of the planning process.

The Avon valley has a greater range of habitats and more diverse flora and fauna than any other chalk river in Britain. The watery terrain is host to several nationally rare species," he said. Elliot Morley, a junior Agriculture Minister, will this week announce new grants paying farmers to return fields to boggy meadows. The six

sites earmarked for the new Environmentally Sensitive Area grants are the Breckland of Norfolk and Suffolk, the North Kent grazing marshes, the Test Valley in Hampshire, the Suffolk river valleys, the Clun grasslands of Devon and the southwest Peak District.

Environmental groups welcomed the new Ramsar listings but used the launch to protest at the Government's involvement in a proposal to develop more than 90 hectares of the site of special scientific interest on Rainham Marshes wetlands in East London.

Matt Phillips of Friends of the Earth said: "The threat facing Rainham makes a mockery of all the fine words."

Rules to make ships discharge waste at ports rather than at sea, and a ban on drift nets, will be priorities during Britain's presidency of the European Union, John Prescott said yesterday. The Deputy Prime Minister told the advisory committee on the Protection of the Oceans in Stockholm that Britain would also be pressing to reform Europe's fisheries to encompass environmental factors and conserving fish stocks.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1998

Writer seeks delay of knighting ceremony

THE British science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke, 80, asked yesterday for the "postponement" of the knighthood ceremony that was to have been conducted by the Prince of Wales tomorrow in Sri Lanka. He said he was outraged by unsubstantiated allegations that he paid for sex with boys.

He added in a brief statement that he wanted the postponement, which in practice means cancellation, in view of the nature of a story in the British press, which quoted him as admitting that he used to have sex with boys. He insisted he did not want to embarrass the Prince and said he was taking legal advice.

The allegation of sex with boys is the talk of Colombo, from the highest political levels to taxi drivers and shopkeepers. Neither of the two English-language papers, one state-run, carried news about it yesterday but the national Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation did so once Sir Arthur had issued his statement. He is the most celebrated

The allegation that Arthur C. Clarke enjoyed sex with boys is the talk of Colombo, says Christopher Thomas

foreigner in Sri Lanka, where he has lived for 40 years. So great is his prestige that a special law, known to all as the Clarke Act, was passed to enable foreigners under certain circumstances to take up long-term residence.

He has been ill much of his life and has been quoted as saying he has not been sexually active for 20 years. He has a wheelchair, although he can take a few steps with the aid of a stick, the result, he says, of years of daily physiotherapy. He has never been married; he has a maid-servant who calls himself a valet and is devoted to his small pet dog. He was too frail to travel to London to receive his knighthood, awarded in the New Year's Honours List. His pleasant house at Barnes

report. Nobody would have been surprised had it been reported that he had once been a practising homosexual.

Paedophilia remains rife in Sri Lanka and the Government has accepted advice from British police on how to deal with it. There are no facilities on the island to aid child-sex victims and only one organisation, Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (Peace), is fighting to control what is a big business.

Peace estimates that 10,000 children are involved in the sex trade. Most of the customers are foreigners, mainly believed to be German. A clampdown in Thailand has driven many of them here.

Sir Arthur is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, near Colombo, and established the Arthur Clarke Centre for Modern Technologies, specialising in communications and computers. He has declared an ambition to live at least to 2001, the year contained in the title of his best-seller, 2001: A Space Odyssey.



Arthur C. Clarke denies accusations of paedophilia and is taking legal advice

Mugabe presses for huge pension

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE Government of President Mugabe has announced plans to provide sumptuous retirement benefits to himself, his wife and their three children, as well as to Zimbabwe's two Vice-Presidents and their families.

Despite the discontent that lay behind the worst urban violence in 25 years that erupted last month, a Bill published at the weekend proposes to give the country's three "royal families" free vehicles, air travel, entertainment, bodyguards, medical attention and staff. It makes specific provision for "children born out of wedlock", a reference to the two children whom Mr Mugabe's wife, Grace, 34, bore during their adulterous affair.

Civic leaders said that the proposed tax-free benefits could inflame the volatile political situation. "It's outrageous," said Morgan Tsvangirai, the Secretary-General of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions.

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Australian leader concedes republic could exist by 2001

FROM ROGER MANNING IN SYDNEY

JOHN HOWARD, the Australian Prime Minister, declared yesterday that a republic could weaken his country's system of government. But at the opening of the people's convention set up to examine the constitutional future, he conceded that if a majority of Australians supported cutting formal ties with Britain, a republic could be in place by 2001, the centenary of federation.

Mr Howard, a staunch monarchist, said he was opposed to Australia becoming a republic because the present system had provided certainty and stability. "It has brought us together with a remarkable absence of rancour and dissent, and provided the rules for governing the nation with both certainty and stability," he said in his opening address to the convention in Canberra's old Parliament House.

"I oppose Australia becoming a republic because I do not believe that the alternatives so far canvassed will deliver a better system of government than the one we currently have. I go further: some will deliver a worse outcome and gravely weaken our system of government."

The Prime Minister said he believed that modern government was most workable when its ceremonial functions were separated from executive responsibilities. But Mr Howard's sentiments are unlikely to wash with most of the 152 elected delegates, who will today begin to hammer out

the details of a republican model of government.

Leading the case for change is Malcolm Turnbull, a republican warhorse lawyer who took on the British Government 12 years ago in the *Spycatcher* case and won the rights for Peter Wright, a former MI5 agent to publish his memoirs.

He said that during the bicentennial celebrations in 1988, members of the Royal Family opened every important ceremony. "Rather than celebrating our nationhood we denied it. Was there no Australian who could safely handle a pair of scissors? If we are to make a prouder, stronger nation from our diverse community, we need to have symbols and institutions that reinforce the one thing we all have in common - Australia. The Queen of England, good and great lady that she is, cannot."

The vote on whether Australia should become a republic will be taken at the end of the next fortnight's deliberations. If, as many expect, the republicans win, the Government would be committed to a referendum before the end of 1999, Mr Howard said. If a popular vote provided the necessary majority, a republic would be declared in 2001.

Kim Beazley, the Opposition leader has pledged to instigate the change in time for the Sydney 2000 Olympics if Labour wins power before

Leading article, page 19

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Texas board rejects clemency for woman facing execution at midnight



Tucker: "reborn" in jail as a devout Christian

THE Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles yesterday signalled its determination to send Karla Faye Tucker to her death by rejecting her last-ditch plea for clemency.

Tucker, 38, who has become a household name in America in the run-up to her impending execution, will die at the Huntsville Death House at midnight London time, becoming the first woman to be executed in Texas since the Civil War. A lethal cocktail of potassium bromide, potassium chloride and sodium thiopental will be injected by a prison doctor into her prostrate body, strapped firmly to a trolley.

Known as the "pickaxe murder-

Tunku Varadarajan in Huntsville reports on a ruling that may be a catalyst for change

es", Tucker was convicted in 1984 for the murder of two people. In jail, she was "reborn" as a devout Christian, attracting a fervent flock of supporters.

At a press conference in Austin, Victor Rodriguez, the chairman of the state parole board, announced that he and his colleagues had "voted to deny Karla Faye Tucker's request for commutation, and to deny her request for a reprieve". A grim-faced Mr Rodriguez revealed that 16 of the board's 18 members

had voted against commutation, with two abstentions. In the case of a reprieve - which would only have delayed the execution by another month - 16 voted again, with one abstention and only one member in favour. Overwhelmingly though the votes may seem, they represent a small softening of the board's traditional adamantine line.

Last year, each of the 16 requests for clemency by Texas "death row" inmates was rejected 18-0 by the

board. The board's decision would appear to let the Texas Governor, George Bush Jr, off the hook. He has no independent legal power to commute Tucker's sentence, and can only do so on the board's recommendation. The sole power he now has is to grant Tucker a 30-day reprieve.

There are signs, however, that today's execution may act as an important catalyst for change in Texas public opinion. According to a recent opinion poll published in *The Houston Chronicle*, fewer Texans now support the death penalty than before the Tucker case sprang to public attention. The poll found that 61 per cent support the

death penalty "in general", down from a recent high of 78 per cent. Yet only 41 per cent would still favour the death penalty if Texas law were changed to permit juries to sentence first-degree murderers to life without parole as an alternative to the death penalty.

According to Robert Stein, a professor at Rice University, "it may well be that one of the consequences of the Karla [Faye Tucker] story is that there is some legislative movement in Texas for establishing a sentencing option of life without parole".

Yet if public opinion in Texas is softening, there is as yet no evidence of that in Huntsville, which

prides itself on being the "death capital of America". There have been 144 executions here since the death penalty was reintroduced in the state in 1976.

Rome: The Pope yesterday made a last-minute appeal to spare the life of Tucker (Richard Owen writes). "I ask you for a gesture of clemency," the pontiff wrote to the Texas Governor.

"I ask you to contribute to the creation of a culture favourable to respect for life." Vatican officials noted Tucker had "turned to religion" during her 14 years on death row. Yesterday Italian newspapers devoted several pages to emotional coverage of the Tucker case.

California smokers overturn bar ban

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A SMOKERS' rebellion backed by three big tobacco companies and a team of public relations experts has won a victory against the toughest anti-smoking law in the United States.

A month after California's 36,000 bars became no-smoking zones, roughly a third of them are flouting the new law despite the risk of \$100 (£60) fines for their owners. But in a legislative ambush a Bill to lift the ban was passed in the state assembly last week. One Republican said it was "creating criminals out of people going to a tavern to have a drink and a smoke".

Until January 1, bars had been the last refuge of social smokers in a state that has led the way in outlawing them: smoking is illegal in California's offices, restaurants, airports and sports stadia.

Smokers and bar-owners have depicted their revolt as a spontaneous effort. But a *Los Angeles Times* report said it is backed by the National Smokers' Alliance, a non-profit group based in Virginia that received \$42 million in donations between 1993 and 1996, including large ones from the tobacco giants Philip Morris, Lorillard and Brown & Williamson.

Clinton trumpets budget surplus to 'end paralysis'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S unspoken message yesterday was "It's the economy after all, stupid" as he officially unveiled the first budget surplus for 30 years against a backdrop of polls showing that Americans badly want to forgive him the sex and perjury storm of the past fortnight.

Ebulliently drawing a huge zero on a board with a black felt-tip pen to symbolise the end of the government deficit, and adding an impromptu exclamation mark beside it, Mr Clinton announced that the 1999 fiscal year would show a surplus of \$9.5 billion (£5.7 billion).

"This marks the end of an era," he said, in which "massive deficits paralysed" the White House and Congress. "The new economy was being held back by old political ideas and arrangements. Doing something about the deficit was one of the reasons I ran for President in 1992."

Predicting surpluses "as far as the eye can see", Mr Clinton said he expected cumulative surpluses of \$218 billion over the next five years, and \$1,000 billion over the decade.

According to a rash of new opinion polls published yesterday, Mr Clinton's approval ratings are at around 70 per cent, the highest in his presi-

dency and rival even those of Ronald Reagan.

The prediction of a surplus for the fiscal year, beginning on October 1, marks a watershed in American politics. For three decades, Republicans and Democrats have been hamstringed by the gap between the federal Government's annual revenue and spending.

Yesterday's official unveiling of the budget is the first shot in the annual battle between the President and the Congress. Last year, accord was barely reached before the start of the financial year.

The most controversial plank of the 1999 budget is Mr Clinton's determination to fund part of his spending plans with \$65.5 billion in new tobacco taxes over the next five years, part of the grand settlement negotiated last year and now waiting for approval by the Republican-controlled Congress.

To Republican fury, Mr Clinton also pencilled in \$24 billion in corporate tax rises over the next five years. He also proposed to keep Pentagon spending "broadly flat after taking account of inflation, and to press ahead with two more rounds of military base closures, in 2001 and 2005. Leading Republi-

cans attacked the President yesterday for taking Congress's support for the tobacco Bill for granted. But they also acknowledged privately that he has greatly stepped up the pressure on Congress to pass the Bill, as no Republican wants to be seen to scupper the balanced budget.

Yesterday's announcement does not mark an end to economic constraints: the national debt, less than \$1,000 billion when Mr Reagan entered the White House in 1981, now stands at \$5,400 billion. But the political game now turns on how the surpluses should be spent.

Mr Clinton said yesterday that the priority should be to "save social security first", his central theme in last week's State of the Union address. The national pension scheme is set to go bust in 2029 under the weight of baby-boomers' retirement.

The official budget, which spans 2,514 pages and weighs 11lb 3oz, also captures the "something for everyone" spirit of last week's speech. President Clinton is also proposing \$21.5 billion over five years on new childcare initiatives, an increase of a third in educational spending, and more for medical research on cancer and AIDS.



President Clinton arrives back at the White House with Tyler Clinton, his nephew, after a weekend spent with family and friends at Camp David, his official retreat

Lewinsky agrees to face lie detector

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MONICA LEWINSKY, the former White House trainee alleged to have had an affair with President Clinton, is willing to submit to a lie-detector test in exchange for complete immunity from prosecution.

Her lawyer, William Ginsburg, said Ms Lewinsky, 24, would take the test to prove that an account of the relationship with Mr Clinton was true. But she would only do so, he said, if Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, promised not to charge her with lying in an affidavit she provided for lawyers in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit.

Immunity talks between Mr Starr's office and Ms Lewinsky remained stalled yesterday. In secretly taped conversations, she is reported to have said that she had sexual relations with the President while working as a 21-year-old trainee at the White House and that he and his friend, Vernon Jordan, urged her to deny the relationship under oath.

Mr Ginsburg has hinted that his client was more sympathetic to the President than had been assumed, predicted that Mr Clinton would remain in office despite the allegations and said for the first time that she might join forces with the White House to fight Mr Starr.

Gill-edged invitation, page 17

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German firms count cost of rising sabotage

GERMAN security experts gave a warning yesterday of a new wave of Luddite-style sabotage in the country's factories. Arson, vandalism, computer theft, product poisoning and outright sabotage have become part of the everyday reality of the economy.

Heike Denzer, director of one of Germany's top industrial security companies, yesterday gave the example of cable-cutting on poorly protected building sites.

A computer centre, about to take up its work, was paralysed when somebody severed main cables; the company lost millions of pounds of contracts because of the delay. The culprit, it emerged, was somebody working for a supplier which was unable to meet tight delivery deadlines.

As pressure grows on German manufacturers to become more competitive, there has been increasing recourse to industrial espionage and sabotage. Thousands of circuit boards are stolen every year. A German consortium competing for large Korean contracts was outbid by a rival that had intercepted its files.

Michael Schnell, who advises insurance companies, said that in the early 1980s arson accounted for 9 per cent of industrial damage covered by insurance terms. "Now arson makes up between a quarter and a fifth of total damage in German industry," he told the daily *Handelsblatt*, which published a special investigation into company sabotage. Apart from the fire damage directly attributable to arson, some of the 15 per cent of uninvestigated

Vandalism and theft by frustrated staff are everyday realities, writes

Roger Boyes

fire damage was almost certainly malicious. Police registered 140 cases in 1996 of Germans trying to poison food products on supermarket shelves, with the aim of blackmailing the manufacturer or the supermarket chain. Ten years ago, only 35 cases were known to the police. Such blackmail is now costing companies millions in product withdrawal and loss of market share.

The most disturbing phenomenon, however, is the rise in serious vandalism, which is reflecting something of the anti-technological resentment that is simmering in German factories. Rainer von zur Mühlen, publisher of a security newsletter, cites the example of a large engineering manufacturer. In 1975, the cases of vandalism that were recorded totalled 116; by 1995, the company was having to deal with 396 cases. Lists were destroyed and oil pipes deliberately weakened.

The factory's security chief managed to track down 17 culprits and, with management approval, offered them money if they saw a psychiatrist. "They exhibited an intense hostility to technology which was almost schizophrenic in

character," Herr von zur Mühlen told *Handelsblatt*. "Their attitude seemed to be, 'If I cannot own these cars, then nobody can'."

A man who had disrupted the work of the factory for three hours, with a single heavy hammer blow on a critical pipe, spoke of a "feeling of omnipotence".

All the vandals — from senior management to temporary manual labourers — reported frustration and unhappiness with bosses, their colleagues and their pay packets. The underlying element, however, is almost certainly the fear of unemployment. Figures to be released this week will show the German jobless total edging quickly towards five million.

The low morale has infected the retail trade. The Association of German Retailers reported yesterday that the turn-of-year inventories had revealed a shortfall of £3 billion of goods, 1 per cent of total turnover, which disappeared into the hands of shoplifters. A very large proportion of this theft was carried out by employees.

Typically, goods from big do-it-yourself centres are removed during the day to an outlying shed on the premises and then picked up at night.

In Saxony, however, police are reporting run-raiding, Romanian gangs have taken to stealing lorries and crashing them backwards into shop windows.

The gang members are so well trained that they can load a lorry in three minutes and escape well before the police arrive.



A Palestinian policeman trains his rifle on Israeli soldiers yesterday in Bethlehem, where tension has been growing over four days of unrest

Bethlehem tense as peace deadlock sparks clashes

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PALESTINIAN police trained their rifles on Israeli troops during stone-throwing clashes in the West Bank town of Bethlehem yesterday. Officers crouched in firing positions as Israeli soldiers pursued stone-throwers into Palestinian-controlled territory.

After a five-minute standoff, during which the Israelis knelt and aimed their guns at the police, the soldiers retreated, firing teargas towards the stone-throwers and police as they went. Several of the teargas canisters landed

near a Palestinian girls' school, and 20 pupils were treated in hospital. In the school courtyard, girls in green-and-white striped uniforms coughed and wiped away tears with handkerchiefs.

It was the fourth consecutive day of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem as frustration grows over the failure to break the ten-month stalemate in the peace process. At the weekend, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, separately met Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, but

made no progress. Mr Arafat rejected outright a step-by-step Israeli troop withdrawal from more than 10 per cent of the West Bank in tandem with Palestinian action against anti-Israeli militants, Palestinian officials said.

Mr Netanyahu refused to budge from his stance that Israel will cede less than 10 per cent of the territory, and only after the Palestinians meet preconditions.

Palestinian opposition groups accused Washington of being biased towards Israel, adding that the peace process was at a dead end. Yesterday's

clashes began when about 20 Palestinians pelted Israeli soldiers with stones near Rachel's Tomb, an Israeli-controlled shrine on the outskirts of Bethlehem, and the troops responded with rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades.

On Sunday, Israeli troops and Palestinian police trained weapons on one another briefly across the line dividing Israeli and Palestinian-controlled areas near Rachel's Tomb. The four days of violence began on Friday with the death of a young Palestinian in Israeli police custody.

Israel's new models of virtue fashion a cover story

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



Vered Biton, 21, a married model for Original Idea

THE world's first ultra-Orthodox modelling agency has opened in Israel and is already a thriving business despite the many religious taboos imposed by rabbis, who have given it the green light after much hesitation. "Naomi Campbell and Cindy Crawford need not apply," said Amos Ben-Nach, the enterprising Jerusalemite who founded the Original Idea agency. "The guiding principle of this organisation is that it is more important to be modest than to be beautiful."

Mr Ben-Nach is already sorting through investment offers — including one from Britain — after securing front-page coverage in *The Wall Street Journal*. The unlikely

success story is based on a previously untapped market, where any form of modelling, especially by women, was regarded as profane. It has been helped along by the increased clout of strictly observant Jews in Israel, where at the last election religious parties won an unprecedented 23 of the 120 Knesset seats.

The women models can appear on a catwalk only in front of women, but the men, who include rabbis, can appear in posters and on television as long as they are dressed traditionally. "We are looking for women who wear long skirts, who cover their arms and whose dresses come up to the bottom of their necks. We are accepted by the religious community because

we stick to its rules," said Mr Ben-Nach, 34, a part-time religious official. His clients include a European airline, a large soft-drinks company and a car manufacturer.

Because of the religious taboos, the women can be photographed for inclusion in the agency's books only in public places. The married models must cover their hair at all times when out of their own homes and Mr Ben-Nach supervises the sessions to make sure no rules are breached.

"I think that people have had enough seeing women with all their clothes off," he said. "Soon there will be a demand for models to keep them on, and ours are the best in the world at that."



Meir Lebel, a rising star

'Police incompetence aided paedophile'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

MARC DUTROUX, at the centre of Belgium's child murder scandal, enjoyed no direct protection from the police or other authorities but did benefit from their incompetence and corruption, a parliamentary inquiry concluded.

It reached its conclusion after a ten-month search for evidence to substantiate suspicions that Mr Dutroux and his accomplices could have escaped arrest until August 1996 only through police complicity. In a case that sparked a national crisis, he, his wife and two others are expected to stand trial late this year for the kidnapping of six girls and the murder of four of them.

The parliament's report, leaked yesterday to the Belgian media, found no evidence that any official had known of Mr Dutroux's alleged paedophile crimes. It concluded that he and his circle had escaped detection for years thanks to the "amateurism, negligence and incompetence" of the authorities investigating the disappearances of children.

In the worst incompetence, disclosed last year, the gendarmes left empty-handed after a search of the Dutroux home at Charleroi in 1996, despite coming within feet of two girls, aged eight, imprisoned in the cellar. They later died of hunger.

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Sea Harriers based at Yeovilton naval air base in Somerset yesterday left to join the Western armada gathering in the Gulf (Nicholas Wood writes). The six Royal Navy jets will join HMS *Illustrious*, now off Gibraltar, which is heading for the Gulf to replace HMS

Sea Harriers boost carrier air power in expanding armada

Invincible. The planes will later be joined by members of 801 Naval Air Squadron. RAF pilots will be ordered to carry out precision bombing raids on

Iraqi targets if diplomatic efforts fail to avert another Gulf conflict. In a move that pitches the RAF into the front line of the crisis, seven Harriers with HMS

Invincible are being fitted with a high-tech bomb guidance system. The TIALD (thermal imaging and laser designating) pods are made by the British firm

GEC-Marconi, and were used in the Gulf War. Senior military sources disclosed yesterday that the work had been brought forward to enable the

aircraft to assist the Americans in airstrikes aimed at Iraqi chemical, biological and nuclear weapons sites. So far the operation has cost Britain £10 million, although that figure would quickly rise if the allies decide to take military action.

Oust Saddam and spare Iraq, Gulf Arabs demand

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

DIPLOMACY

AMERICAN efforts to rally support for military strikes against Iraq gained momentum yesterday, when Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, made a whistle-stop tour of key Gulf Arab states. Ms Albright met Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah last night for three hours of talks. Her message to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain was that they were in the front line against Iraq and had the most to fear if President Saddam Hussein was allowed to develop weapons of mass destruction. Her aides said Kuwait, which relies on American muscle for its survival, would support a military strike against Iraq if diplomacy failed. It was also prepared to host 2,000 American troop

reinforcements to join 1,500 who maintain an almost year-round presence, defence sources said.

Ms Albright said later that Washington and Riyadh agreed Iraq would be responsible for the "grave consequences" of its refusal to comply with UN arms inspections. Before her arrival in Riyadh, Saudi officials had

Ministers veto vaccines

London: British sailors and airmen confronting Iraq will not receive vaccines and tablets linked to Gulf War syndrome, according to senior military sources (Nicholas Wood writes). Ministers were said to be keeping the

said there would be no strikes on Iraq from their soil. Western diplomats said that in private the Gulf Arab states would be more supportive if they could be persuaded Washington had a coherent strategy to oust rather than merely punish Saddam.

The point was made publicly by the Saudi newspaper, *Al-Riyadh*, which said that to minimise the suffering of the Iraqi people, America should "take out" Saddam instead of

preparing for war against Iraq. "Why don't the Americans do to Saddam what they did with former Panamanian President, Manuel Noriega, or what the Russians did with the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev?" it asked.

However, it issued a warning: "If the upcoming military strike is just going to be a television event or minor surgery, Saddam will be the big winner because he will have been subjected to an attack which all the countries of the world and the nations of the region reject."

The best strategy for Washington would be to work with high-level defectors from the Iraqi military to plan a coup, dissidents and some Gulf Arab officials said.

Ms Albright rebuffed suggestions the Arab world opposed Washington's tough

stand against Iraq as Saddam continued to defy the United Nations. Baghdad responded that any progress she had made in persuading America's regional allies to back military action was the result of "blackmail", while most Arab and Muslim states continued to urge a diplomatic solution. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference, which represents 55 Muslim countries, cautioned that military action against Iraq would bring a "new catastrophe with incalculable consequences for the region". There was a similar message from the Arab League.

In Egypt, where Ms Albright concludes her tour today, President Mubarak sent a message to Saddam urging him against any action that would provoke military strikes.



Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russia's envoy, left, with Saddam Hussein in Baghdad yesterday

Yeltsin urges peaceful solution

RUSSIA

Moscow: President Yeltsin issued a strong warning yesterday against using force on Iraq, saying that it would cause the deaths of innocent civilians and bring unpredictable consequences for the entire Middle East region (Robin Lodge writes). Sergei Yastrzhenbsky, the

Minister, who is in Baghdad as Mr Yeltsin's special envoy, was understood to be in regular contact with Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, who said yesterday that he believed Russia's diplomatic efforts "can be continued and may come to fruition".

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CHANGING TIMES

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Missile... as fear... attack... Blair mus...

Missiles readied as fears of germ attack increase

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI deployed four batteries of American Patriot anti-missile missiles on a hill in the southern Negev Desert yesterday as public and political anxiety grew about the nation's alleged unpreparedness for any Iraqi germ attack.

The army declared a large area around the site as a closed military zone and refused to comment on what were described as "operational issues". A claim broadcast by Israel radio that the move was taken in "the framework of routine training" was not treated seriously.

America sent Patriot missiles to Israel during the 1991 Gulf War when President Saddam Hussein fired 39 Scud missiles at the Jewish state. Witnesses who watched the new deployment said lorries carrying the Patriots arrived in the area overnight and that soldiers assembled them under searchlights.

The hill overlooks the southern city of Arad, just 27 miles from Dimona, the top-secret site of the nuclear reactor at the centre of Israel's nuclear weapons capability which was reported to have been a target

ISRAEL

of Iraqi Scuds in 1991. The deployment of the Patriots did little to allay the mood of growing nervousness verging on panic about the state of the country's defence against any Iraqi missiles tipped with chemical or biological warheads.

Yosef Goell, a Jerusalem Post columnist, asked: "Are our gas masks effective against anything, or are they and the recommended plastic-wrapped and Scotch-taped safe rooms merely a modern form of voodoo medicine, comparable to the American Patriots of anti-missile missiles which did not succeed in shooting down even one Scud in 1991?"

Despite the spreading doubts about the efficacy of the gas masks and basic anti-chemical warfare kits, Israelis flocked to the centres handing out updated masks and kits one near Tel Aviv stayed open to lam to meet demand.

Israel radio reported that officers in the Home Command complained that the Israel Defence Force had "no consistent or organised" method of fighting against biological weapons. They also said

they had yet to receive instructions on how to respond to an attack with biological weapons.

Avi Yehzekel, an opposition Labour backbencher, urged Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to come to the Knesset and speak openly to deputies about "Israel's preparedness for a confrontation with Iraq".

In an attempt to calm nerves, security officials kept repeating that the likelihood of Iraq retaliating against American airstrikes with germ warfare raids on Israel was "quite low".

But with memories of the 1991 Scud attacks, many cheered on by Palestinians from their rooftops, still fresh in the minds of many Israelis, the unease prompted by the latest Gulf crisis was reflected in an opinion poll published in the Tel Aviv daily *Yediot Aharonot*.

It showed that 53 per cent of Israelis did not feel protected in the face of an Iraqi attack; 52 per cent thought that Iraq would fire missiles at the Jewish state if America attacked Baghdad; and 63 per cent predicted that Israel would retaliate in such a scenario.



An Iraqi army officer shows a university student how to dismantle an AK47 at a training session in Baghdad yesterday. Iraq has mobilised about a million people

WORLD IN BRIEF

104 feared dead as jet 'hits volcano'

Cagayan de Oro, Philippines: A DC9 jet with 104 people on board disappeared yesterday and appeared to have crashed into a volcano on southern Mindanao Island, an airport executive here said.

A spokesman for the Philippine airline, Cebu Pacific Air, refused to acknowledge that the plane had crashed ten hours after it had gone missing, but mountaineers with a week's supply of food set off after dark up the 8,200ft Mount Balatucan to look for Flight 357. Philippine Air Force helicopters failed to see any sign of the plane before bad weather forced an end to the search. (Reuters)

Rockets hit Tokyo airport

Tokyo: Two homemade rockets were fired into Narita international airport here, injuring one person. Japanese police said a guard discovered a device in a car park and it launched two missiles before police were able to examine it. Radical groups opposing the airport's expansion were suspected of having launched the attack. (AP)

Raped girl, 14, found alive

Sarasota, Florida: A 14-year-old girl who was raped, stabbed nearly 30 times, badly beaten and left to die was found alive four days after the attack. She identified the attacker as Scott Christopher Malsky, 22, a family friend, who was arrested in Delaware after police stopped him for speeding. (AP)

Costa Ricans elect leader

San José: Costa Rican voters, upset over inflation, have chosen a conservative economist to be their President. With 59 per cent of the ballot boxes counted, Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, right, of the Social Christian Unity Party, had 46.3 per cent of the vote, compared with 41.9 per cent for José Miguel Corrales, of the National Liberation Party. Señor Corrales conceded defeat soon after the first results were announced. (AP)



Alcohol deaths in Serbia

Belgrade: At least ten people died and scores were seriously ill after drinking illegally bottled alcohol in the central Serbian city of Nis, according to reports here. The city's hospital said the victims were poisoned by highly concentrated methyl alcohol which induced blindness and coma after one glass. The owner of a distillery was arrested. (Reuters)

Cheating pastor loses hand

Nairobi: A pastor had a hand chopped off by villagers who caught him sleeping at his lover's home, the *East African Standard* reported. The clergyman, 43, said he suspected his wife had betrayed him to villagers in Virembi, western Kenya. He was taken to hospital in a wheelbarrow. (Reuters)

Fears of syphilis 'epidemic'

Moscow: Syphilis cases in Russia are at near-epidemic levels, with 392,000 people infected last year, Gennadi Onishchenko, the First Deputy Health Minister, said. He also feared an Aids surge, with 6,378 HIV cases as of last month. Authorities say the actual number may be up to ten times higher. (AP)

Blair must keep aims in sight before going to war

The strategy and the objectives are correct, but the time is wrong. President Saddam Hussein must be prevented from retaining and acquiring biological, chemical and nuclear weapons of mass destruction. He cannot be allowed to prevail and divide the United Nations Security Council. Military action may therefore be necessary soon.

But facing the first big decision of his premiership involving the use of British troops, Tony Blair is in danger of sounding gung-ho. Of course Saddam is, in Mr Blair's words, an "evil dictator". But such language confuses rather than clarifies the basis on which force might be used. After all, as George Ro-

RIDDELL

bertson, the Defence Secretary, pointed out, the aim would not be the overthrow of Saddam, since that "will be the job for his people".

Short of war, politicians are wise to state their aims when committing troops in relative rather than absolute terms. Ever since the 1930s, democratic leaders have fumbled about the evils of dictators even when they have been undeniable, and unwilling, to get rid of them. Eden's obsessive comparison of Nasser with Hitler and Mussolini led him into the disaster, for him not least, of Suez in 1956. The use

of extreme language about Saddam led to much misunderstanding at the end of the Gulf War in March 1991 when President Bush ordered a halt to the fighting after Kuwait had been recaptured.

Baroness Thatcher and her defenders later argued that a big opportunity had then been missed to advance on Baghdad and get rid of Saddam. But that view was convincingly rejected by Mr Bush and John Major. The key Security Council resolution only authorised the expulsion of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and the carefully assembled coalition, including most Arab states, would have split if further military action had been taken in advancing towards Baghdad. The situa-

tion is very different now. Even leaving aside differences over tactics among the five permanent members of the Security Council, and within the European Union, the Arab states are even more reluctant now to approve the use of American force against another Arab country.

As Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, admitted yesterday, the Gulf states are also angry about what they see as Israel's obstruction of the Middle East peace process, and the Clinton Administration's failure to put greater pressure on Israel.

There is, admittedly, no reason why America, with Britain's support, cannot act

alone, though preferably with the acquiescence, if not participation, of other key states. But the absence of the wider support seen in 1990-91 means that America and Britain have to be even more precise in their objectives if they are forced to take military action. It is no good just denouncing Saddam in broad-brush terms.

Mr Cook said yesterday that the goal of any military action would be to force Iraq to comply with Security Council resolutions about allowing arms inspectors "full and unrestricted access" to all sites to permit the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. But that begs the question of whether air strikes, with their inevitable civilian casualties,

are intended as a substitute for the work of the UN inspectors in destroying such weapons or as a punishment for intransigence and evasion in order to persuade Saddam to change his ways. In short, what will be achieved, apart from a powerful gesture to Saddam that he cannot escape the consequences of his actions?

Mr Blair and Mr Cook have a strong case, and are right to insist on being certain about the substance and genuineness of concessions apparently being offered by Iraq yesterday. But they need to be clearer about the objectives and limits of any military action.

PETER RIDDELL

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A new future for Dorah

Bronwen Jones has been overwhelmed by the response of Times readers to an appeal to save a South African child's eyes

Dorah will be four in April. When she was seven months old, the shack in which she lived caught fire. The heat destroyed her hands and face. At the end of 1997 doctors in South Africa recommended that her eyes should be removed to ward off infection. Was this necessary? asked the Times. Was there a surgeon somewhere who could save Dorah's eyes?

Today, thanks to the generosity of our readers, Dorah has a very different future. The plea for medical assistance to allow her to keep her sense of light and dark has attracted interest from many eminent doctors. It has also raised £76,000 in donations — people wrote from as far afield as Australia and New York.

The most likely option now is that Dorah will come to London in the spring and that the first of several operations will take place to rebuild her eyelids. Richard Collin, a consultant surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital, has offered his skills for free, and the hospital fees of £6,500 for the first two operations will be met by donations.

Mr Collin has yet to examine Dorah, but he was optimistic after Sky TV shot medical footage of her injuries. If the initial assessment on Dorah is good, she will have the first operation immediately. This will use skin from elsewhere on her body, probably her legs, to create a curtain over the eyes. She will be in hospital for 10 days, followed by six weeks' convalescence to allow the scars to heal. During this time Dorah's eyes could be tested to see how much sight she has.

Many Times readers have offered Dorah accommodation, but she may need to remain in London to have her other needs assessed at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, or possibly East Grinstead, where the Victoria Hospital has a specialised unit in plastic surgery. The second operation, to divide her new eyelids, would take two to three days in hospital.

Then Dorah would fly home to South Africa for six months. Her scar tissue would heal and she would have daily treatment with eye drops and cream. After this, she would return to the UK for a third



Dorah and her mother: how they lost contact is a story steeped in the attitudes of apartheid that still affect so much of South African society

operation to try to raise the eyelids by attaching a muscle from behind the eyes to the lids. In this, or a fourth operation, Mr Collin would try to thicken the eyelids by adding tissue and more skin. Because Dorah's case is so unusual, none of the procedures or time estimates will be confirmed until she arrives here, and securing permission for her to travel involves much red tape in South Africa. Events took an even more unexpected turn when I found Dorah's mother, Margaret Mokoena, living in a squatter camp. I had been told by hospital administrators and by a reporter who had allegedly visited the camp that Margaret was only 14 when Dorah was born. When I finally met her, I realised that one never knows the truth until one has ascertained it for oneself.

Margaret is now 26. She left school with the education level of a 12-year-old because there was no money to pay for fees, uniform and transport. She grew up in a dysfunctional home, with a drunken father who abused her mother so badly that she walked out seven years ago. Margaret has not heard from her since. Her father's other wife stabbed Margaret's father in the chest a year ago — he died. Margaret was raised mainly by her frail grandmother, Violet, on whose monthly stipend of R470 (£53) the family survived. Margaret said that if ever she secured part-time work tilling the maize fields, the men in the family spent her earnings on alcohol. Even Dorah's father — who has shown no interest in her since she was injured — beat Margaret. She has burn scars on her right arm where he hit her with an iron.

From this horrific background a quietly spoken, thoughtful young woman has emerged. Unlike many of her contemporaries, she has had only one child and has no intention of finding another male partner. She has no positive role models to encourage her to do so. How she lost contact with her child is a story steeped in the attitudes of the apartheid era that still affect so much of South African society, Margaret has little self-confidence; she cursed when we met.

The blaze in which Dorah was injured started when a candle fell from its holder. The cardboard used to insulate the hut quickly caught fire. Margaret was at a neighbour's home fetching water for Violet, who was sick. "I came back and flames were coming through the roof," she whispers. "I looked inside and when the flames seemed lower over the bed, my brother and I grabbed the mattress and pulled Dorah out. She was so badly hurt that I was scared to touch her."

An ambulance tour of hospi-

Who will save this child?

South African doctors may save Dorah's eyes. Perhaps the British government could help. *By Bronwen Jones*



The Times article moved readers: £76,000 has been raised

tals followed through the night, with rejection and refusal at every turn. When eventually Dorah was taken into the intensive care unit of the Far East Rand Hospital, Margaret was told to go home. She had been separated from her baby before, when Dorah was born two months premature. "I think it was because I was so badly beaten by my child's father. They kept her in an incubator for two weeks."

Margaret was also used to being bullied by hospital officials, who always thought they knew best. She had neither the language skills nor confidence to argue with them. And she had no money. The visits were sporadic, but on one occasion she was told her child had been transferred and that no one could give her a contact number for the hospital. Margaret was told to go to the magistrate's court to sign papers to allow Dorah to become a ward of court, although she did not understand the terminology. "I did not go to court. But I did not know what to do. I had no money for lawyers."

But Margaret understood that Dorah had been adopted and that her maternal rights had been removed. I took her to be reunited with Dorah. I cannot easily find words to express the feeling of the two of them being together again. This was not a bad mother who did not care about her child. It was a bad or indifferent society that did not try hard enough to keep them together. A society that looked at them in terms of what they could not do or did not have, and judged them thus.

Dorah, we have every belief that she is an intelligent child with much potential.

One of the most exciting responses has been from Passmore Secondary School, in Edmonton, North London, where pupils are working on a frame from which scented and textured objects will hang. This will allow Dorah to smell a bag of herbs, or crackle a bag of Cellophane.

They are also stitching a Dorah-size play rug that combines interesting textures, and are recording a story on tape that goes something like this: "One day Dorah went for a walk. The gravel path was rough on her feet — they will glue gravel pieces on card for Margaret to place beneath Dorah's feet. She found a flower in the garden. Its petals were soft like satin — there will be satin ribbon for Dorah to feel.

I still need to tell of the pensioners, the poet, the prisoner, the poor and the rich who reached into their pockets to help Dorah.

But for now I have this enormous feeling of hope for Dorah. I can only smile as I see the soft curves of Margaret's profile and see Dorah's dreams reflected there.

Lawyers are setting up the Dorah Mokoena Trust, to help Dorah and other South African children in need of specialised medical treatment. The trust has been approved by the Charity Commissioners and all money donated by Times readers will be placed in this fund and administered by the trustees, who will include Bronwen Jones. Donations can be sent to Victor de Grey, Secretary, 15 Ross Lane, Canterbury CT1 2UR, or paid into any bank to account 20299065, sort code 20-17-02. Cheques should be made payable to A Charity Appeal Fund for Dorah Mokoena. Bronwen Jones can be contacted by e-mail: rhughes@bt.com.co.za. Sky TV will report on Dorah in its news bulletins at noon, 5pm and 10pm today.

In addition to finding the best medical solution for Dorah, the task is to find the best and swiftest way to educate her mother to care for her. So when people asked what they could do, I requested early-childhood development videos, the easiest way to give information to barely literate nursing assistants in institutions such as the one in which Dorah lives. Some people asked if children could help. I suggested that they send toys specially tailored to Dorah's needs. Until now, Dorah has spent most of her life in a cot, and is far behind where she should be. But with the many hours that my son Tristan, 7, his friend Thobeka, also 7, and I have spent playing with

How the Muse may inspire men

John Hunter, the pre-eminent 18th-century surgeon and anatomist, was reputed to have infected himself with syphilis so that he could write with greater verisimilitude about its symptoms in his treatise *On The Venereal Disease* in 1786. Now, some 200 years later, Dr Virgil Place, an American physician and pharmacologist, has to some extent followed John Hunter's example and offered his body for medical experimentation. Fortunately, Dr Place's research has enhanced rather than hampered his sexual prowess. Indeed, his studies have led to the introduction of a new — and apparently very effective — form of treatment for impotence.

Dr Place had radical surgery for cancer of the prostate in 1988. Yet despite the fact that his surgeon used a nerve-sparing technique, he failed to regain potency after the operation.

But not for nothing had Dr Place spent almost 40 years in medical science — including spells at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota — and so he set about trying to find a comfortable and not too undignified way of rectifying the problem.

This research has resulted in the formation of a company, Vivus Inc, which has succeeded in manufacturing a soft pellet no bigger than a grain of rice — known as Muse — that can be inserted into the urethra. Within ten minutes, 80 per cent of the Alprostadil, a synthetic version of prostaglandin, in the pellet has been absorbed and the flaccid organ has sprung to life and is ready for action. The erection may last for about half an hour.

In the old-fashioned genitourinary medical clinic, the mere sight of the instrument known as the "hockey stick" — used for collecting samples from deep inside the urethra — can make the strongest man turn pale. Yet even the most timid patient need not fear Muse. Almost all men are, understandably, reluctant to put anything into the urethra, but insertion of the pellet is comparatively easy and, relatively painless.

Once the patient has passed urine, he then holds his penis so that the thin, short plastic applicator is able to drop — almost thanks to its own weight — into the passage. The pellet may then be expelled from the applicator.

Dr Place was not only anxious to find an answer to impotency, but also keen to find a treatment that would make a man feel neither inadequate nor ridiculous. A report in the *The New England Journal of Medicine* says that Muse proved 64.9

per cent successful, and a similar study undertaken in Europe reported a success rate of 68.7 per cent.

There are already efficient injections that may be administered via the penis to treat impotence, but these bruise the psyche as well as the physique. The injections may also, albeit rarely, cause priapism, a persistent painful erection which, if of more than a few hours duration, may cause permanent damage. Muse gives a slightly less powerful but more natural erection: it affects the whole penis, and in only one case has been recorded as causing priapism.

Other physical means of treating impotence include implants. These may be permanently semi-rigid or capable of inflation with fluid by means of a pump, and subsequent relaxation through release of a valve (not a system guaranteed to add to male pride).

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Five per cent of men are impotent at 40, 25 per cent at the age of 65. The overwhelming majority of cases of impotence have a physical, and not a psychological, basis. Erectile dysfunction may occur as the result of high blood pressure, diabetes, hardened arteries, tiredness, stress or depression. Many of the drugs taken to relieve both the physical or emotional causes may also induce erectile dysfunction.

Alcohol taken in excess reduces potency, as does cannabis, and the average heavy smoker reduces his penile blood supply by a third. Up to 52 per cent of men, a survey in Massachusetts suggests, suffer from occasional, minimal or moderate erectile dysfunction.

Less than 10 per cent of the men who have troubles with erections receive any form of treatment.

Many men in Britain will probably not yet have heard of Viagra, a tablet manufactured by Pfizer, that can be swallowed with a late-night dinner an hour before bedtime, is likely to improve penile blood flow so much that potency in many, if not all, cases will be assured.

Viagra is not yet available, but is now in the last stages of its trials programme. It could soon be available in drug stores across the United States. Muse will come on the market in this country this month and will be marketed and distributed by Astra.

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It's the way we don't tell them

Anatole Kaletsky wants Brown to take note of Ugandan affairs

The most important speaker last weekend at the World Economic Forum at Davos was not Helmut Kohl, Newt Gingrich, George Soros, Bill Gates or even Hillary Clinton. None of the politicians, scientists, academics nor artists assembled for the edification and entertainment of the world's business elite at this Swiss mountain resort could match Yoweri Museveni. In a bravura comedy performance, the President of Uganda raised gales of laughter from white South African industrial barons and flinty-eyed investment bankers who looked as though they had not laughed aloud since they were tickled by their mothers in their coats.

There is nothing new about any of these great new trends. "We Africans know more than anybody about globalisation," he noted firmly, raising one eyebrow and pausing pregnantly to let his meaning sink in. It was in 1444 that globalisation arrived in Africa with the Portuguese slave traders. New technology, too, is irresistible; but it is no panacea. A backward country like Uganda certainly needs more technology, yet more investment will not always produce results. Using technology appropriately and setting the right priorities is more important than spending more money. "We have up-country towns in Uganda," said Mr Museveni, "with modern digital tele-

phone exchanges, but no proper roads. So we ring Germany and tell them without a crackle on the line - no we can't send you our wood."

The real benefit of free trade and globalisation was not new capital or new technology, Mr Museveni said. It was new entrepreneurship and new ideas. "We have a lot of crocodiles in Uganda. Crocodiles have been eating us since time immemorial - eating us and eating our children. Then some businessmen came from South Africa and they said: Why are these crocodiles eating you? Why are they eating your children? Why don't you eat them? So now we have crocodile farms and we eat the crocodiles instead of them eating us and we make handbags out of their skins. Ideas and management: that's why we need foreign entrepreneurs."

Mr Museveni went on in this vein - in total covering what he described as the 11 requirements for sustained global development, and illustrating each with a funny story. To judge by the audience reaction, I imagine that each of those jokes was worth \$10 million in extra foreign investment for Uganda, a country which has enjoyed an average growth rate of 7 per cent annually over the past ten years under Mr Museveni's free-market regime.

Why do I recount Mr Museveni's speech in such detail? Partly because his down to earth stories cut through much of the high-flown nonsense so often heard about the unprecedented challenges of globalisation and accelerating technology. But

also because it leads me to another impression I gleaned last weekend, one of more parochial British interest. Gordon Brown has been much criticised for suddenly deciding last week that he was too busy to fulfil his long-standing commitment to speak at this conference. It is hard to imagine how the Chancellor could have found the pressure of sudden events last week more disruptive than did Mrs Clinton. But leaving aside the impression of arrogant insularity conveyed by Mr Brown, another different cost of his absence occurred to me as I was listening to the Ugandan President.

Britain is, of course, an incomparably more powerful and important country than Uganda, and always will be. But Britain is no longer important enough to command automatic attention on the world stage. There are only three or four countries or power-blocs which command such attention: America, Europe, China and perhaps Japan. Whether Britain can enjoy any influence in the world depends entirely on whether its leaders have something distinctive to say and can convey it persuasively, like Mr Museveni.

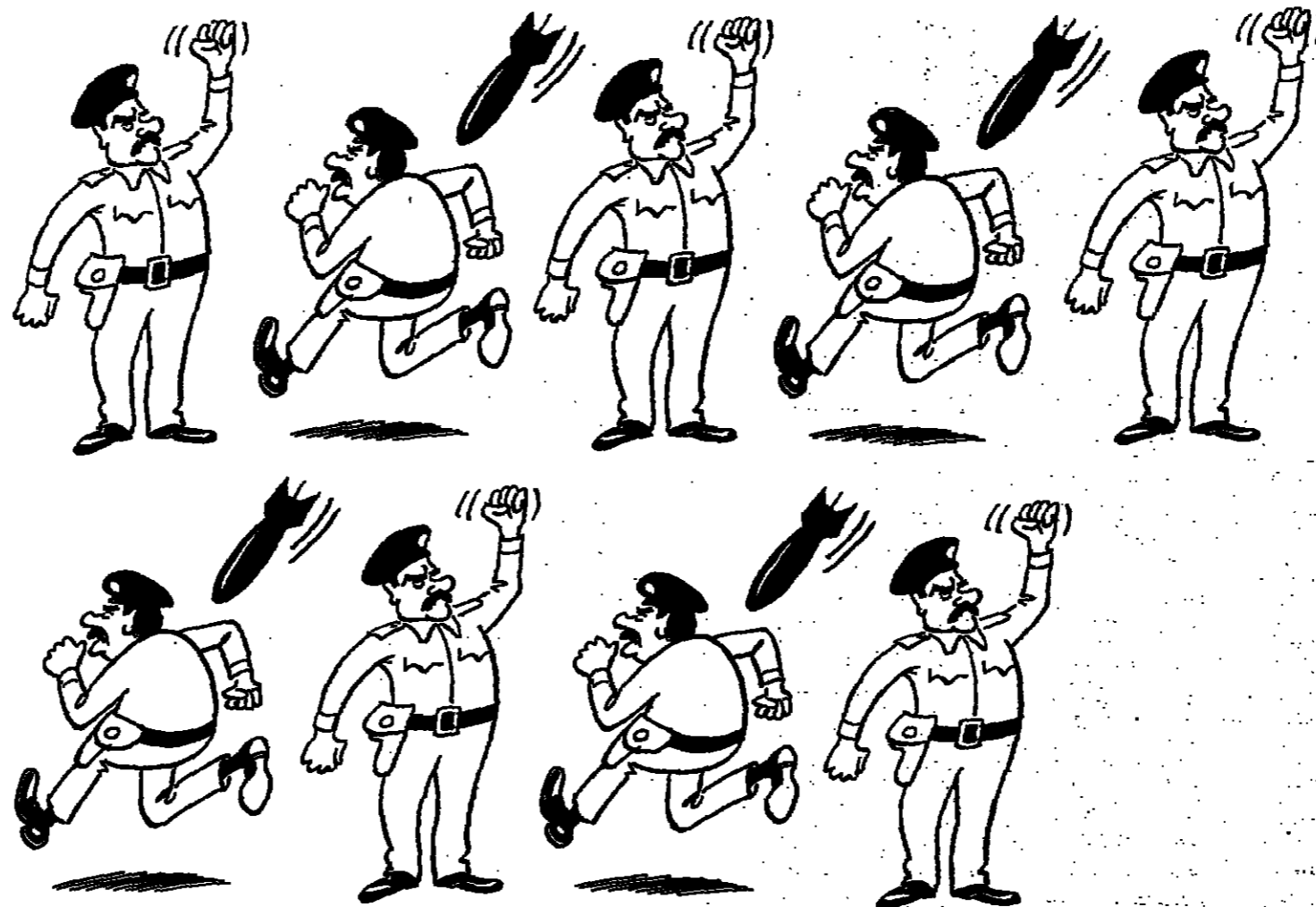
Britain, of course, is a part of Europe. But people who want to know about European policy, or about the future of Europe, address their questions instinctively to the German and French Governments, or to the European Commission in Brussels. For the hundreds of people at Davos debating European tax harmonisation or Europe's position on Iraq, the views of the Germans and French seemed paramount. The position of the British Government seemed no more important than that of the Swedes, Italians or the Dutch. Notwithstanding the valiant efforts of Howard Davies, the chairman of the Financial Services Authority, to stand in for the Chancellor, the absence of a senior British representative at Davos seemed to underline Britain's irrelevance to European politics. Even now, when Tony Blair temporarily occupies the president's chair in Europe, nobody much cares what he or Mr Brown have to say.

Under Margaret Thatcher, everybody wanted to know Britain's views about the world and about Europe. But, curiously, even the Major Government had a message that intrigued the rest of the world, particularly because of its scepticism on the key issue of European politics: monetary union. Now that Mr Blair has committed himself to the principle of EMU, nobody is interested in what British politicians have to say. This may, of course, be perfectly acceptable to Mr Blair, who seems to have no great ambition to become an international statesman. But if Mr Blair wants Britain's voice to be heard on the world stage and within the councils of Europe, he will have to think of something more interesting to say about the single currency than "me too".

So it is with considerable trepidation that I venture today's argument, inspired variously by the trials of President Clinton, the poor naval officer with the musical underpants and the crew of dirty-talking Wrens, the startling accusations against Arthur C. Clarke on the eve of his knighthood, and the usual host of serial adulterers, new lads, gay dogs, Love Gods, good-time-girls, swinging singletons, free spirits and fun-lovers who have infested public discourse for the past few decades. I know that puritans, prudes and prudones will hijack this argument and write me crazy letters. Never mind. Here we go.

I just want to observe that sex, divorced from a decent human relationship, is a washout. A blind alley. The slightest exercise of intelligence and humour reveals that it is not worth bothering with, not at any age, because it brings more trouble than it is worth. Frustration may be well, frustrating - but except in the rarest of cases casual sex is worse for you. Playboy was wrong, the hippies were wrong, *Forum* magazine is nonsense, prostitution has nothing to be said for it, orgies are for losers, "experimenting" with your sexuality is a ridiculous concept, and all those magazines, novels and so-called experts on what Erica Jong called the "zipless zone", purely recreational mating, are talking through their hats.

Look at them, the promiscuous people who use sex as just another physical pleasure like a hot bath or a massage. They pretend that it is



THE COMEBACK KID Peter Brookes

Lust lays love waste

Sex is an anticlimax when divorced from a decent human relationship

The main pitfall of proffering opinions for a living is not that people might disagree with you - good luck to my stern critics, I bear no malice. A columnist is but a flagpole to test the wind of opinion. Far worse is when readers agree too vehemently, grab your modest flag, dip it in gore and march with burning eyes towards the farthest bounds of reason.

Example: the other week I expressed the view that Robin Cook is a louse to women, but that household is not necessarily a bar to the office of Foreign Secretary. An unprecedented avalanche of mail agreed with the first proposition, but wants to drive the poor man out - of office of Parliament, of the Labour Party, of the human race. Never make the mistake of thinking that the hellfire preacher is extinct, especially where sex is concerned.

So it is with considerable trepidation that I venture today's argument, inspired variously by the trials of President Clinton, the poor naval officer with the musical underpants and the crew of dirty-talking Wrens, the startling accusations against Arthur C. Clarke on the eve of his knighthood, and the usual host of serial adulterers, new lads, gay dogs, Love Gods, good-time-girls, swinging singletons, free spirits and fun-lovers who have infested public discourse for the past few decades. I know that puritans, prudes and prudones will hijack this argument and write me crazy letters. Never mind. Here we go.

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Look at them, the promiscuous people who use sex as just another physical pleasure like a hot bath or a massage. They pretend that it is

possible to use another human being's body for brief gratification without caring for them, but with rare exceptions they are miserable creatures and spreaders of misery. Even though the notion of deliberate casual sex is getting more evenly spread between the genders, with women starting to boast of using men, there is still pain. Maybe you can couple with six people who genuinely don't care about being used as a mere masturbatory aid, but the odds are that the seventh will be looking for more, and suffer by not finding it.

We are only half beast: human beings have a powerful instinct to make the act significant and invest it with closeness, and generosity, and a wide-open acceptance of another person's self. The biblical word "know" is not an empty one. That is why at its best - in a heartfelt marriage or a true love affair (yes, gay ones too) love-making drives out loneliness and self-doubt. It links the happy pair not only to one another but to the whole world. The pathos of promiscuity is that many who practise it are inarticulate looking beyond the physical pleasure for emotional comfort, but will never find it until they commit more than their bodies. It is a truism of sexual politics that women want the cuddle more than the sex; but men suffer the same fear of isolation and the same need for a warmth that does not care about performance or perfection.

If you trivialise and vulgarise this essential human feeling into nothing but an itch, you do violence to your humanity. You diminish yourself and may end up a monster. In the recent film *Wild*, the most telling change of gear comes when Oscar Wilde's genuine love of his Bosie is manoeuvred by the disturbed younger man into hectic joint pursuit of "renters"; and the worst moment when Lord Alfred Douglas refuses to give the feverish Oscar a glass of water because that is not the aspect of his friend's body he cares about. Con-

trast that with the mutual nursing and tenderness of infirm old couples, still reverent towards the falling bodies that once gave joy. Or take the extreme and awful tale of Fred and Rosemary West. The most striking thing about their crimes was their horribly logical progression from sexual selfishness to sadism and murder. Both were used in early life as toys for other people's sexual amusement and went on to use others in the same way, even their own children. When torture and killing became part of the pleasure, it was just another way of using someone else's body for their own fun. We shrink from such horrors; yet in some of our attitudes to ordinary sex we echo them. We vaguely say that teenagers will always want to "experiment" and urge them to be "safe" rather than serious. Decent sex education in schools does speak of respect and love; but you do not need to be a born-again Christian to feel faint at the DIY tone of many sex education texts. Nor to be startled by the revelation of some Child Support Agency staff that one of the commonest excuses given by women for not knowing the paternity of their child is that they were being sick out of the window at a party at the time, so they couldn't see who it was.

What underlies this glum joylessness is the rarely challenged view that everybody owns a "sexuality" which must be expressed at all costs, even if they do not at that moment happen to love anybody available. We get quite annoyed when celebrities and politicians refuse to explain their sexual nature. We suspect blameless flatmates of lesbianism and celibate priests of hypocrisy. Campaigners demand the "right" to a sex life for severely disabled and mentally subnormal people, often making no distinction between those in a loving relationship and those who require to be taken to prostitutes (there are care workers who regard this, albeit unofficially, and arrange themselves as doing a vital job).

Meanwhile, unfaithful partners come back from their encounters thinking that the words "It didn't mean anything" are some sort of excuse. If it didn't mean anything, why do it? Why not find another way of briefly, meaninglessly, feeling good?

Women brag of "taking control" in sex as if it were an arena of competition. It is all very odd.

It must also make life very much harder for those who happen to be afflicted with lusts which society forbids: paedophilia, bestiality, or exhibitionism. In more repressed days at least their self-restraint had company. Now, when genital fulfilment is accepted as everybody's right, restraint must be harder and harder for a man who thinks he is genuinely in love with a thirteen-year-old choirboy. And if the President of the United States and his wife both feel relaxed about random wrappings, and the television audience cackles sympathetically at characters who speak of quick ones and casual boys and getting "it", we cannot wonder that the ugly and the unlucky and the angry sometimes erroneously think that they are entitled to "it" and become rapists.

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Pendulums swing, and there are signs that the newly adult generation is disillusioned with the sexual culture it has inherited. They were delivering nifty, righteous stuff to a newspaper survey at the weekend about how even one marital infidelity would mean "the end". They will not approve of the imminent National Marriage Week and the bishops' and cardinals' remonstrance with government. Some will become shrill in praise of celibacy, others of the Roman Catholic view that there is no such thing as divorce and that every sexual act should be open to procreation. Coming from a more battered generation, I do not wish to swing all the way with this pendulum. Proper respect for sex does not exclude honest mistakes, heart-breaking love affairs, wrong choices, sad endings, and rompingly non-procreative episodes of lust between committed lovers or spouses. All it excludes is the callous, pointless, echoingly empty absurdity of proving yourself a man by behaving like a jack rabbit. Or, of course, proving yourself a free woman by behaving like a sad, sad man.

Libby Purves

Welsh," he says. "I understand if people feel the same about my accent."

THE Prince of Wales is dusting off his Herodotus; he is to succeed the Duke of Edinburgh as patron of the British School at Athens, Britain's oldest research institution abroad. Previous patrons include George VI, George V and Edward VII. It hoped that Prince Charles will help its campaign to preserve Roman mosaics at the Villa Dionysos in Knossos. "This is a wonderful boost," says the congenial chairman, Gerald Cadogan.

longing to more radical sorts such as John Wilkes and Charles James Fox. When it comes to replacing the stuff, Banks expects competition from Michael Heseltine and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare: "They are the sort who are not short of a few bob at auctions."

"It will give it new vigour now that it is 111 years old."

WHY does an Englishman only have to put on a dinner jacket for a Labour minister to despise him? After Gordon "lounge suit" Brown, comes Jeff Rooker, Agriculture Minister. The president of the National Farmers' Union, Sir David Nash, is holding a big bash to mark his retirement. Now he has been informed that Rooker will attend the black tie farewell at the Hilton, but is unable to wear a dinner jacket. Instead he will arrive in a suit. "It is certainly different from the Tories," says my man on the tractor. "We will forgive him this once - provided it is not a brown suit with a grey plastic shoes."

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The shift the Tories can't shirk

Tessa Keswick on why Hague must accept federalism

Britain has had a torrid time in the 20th century, but despite being flung about like a ball by two world wars and the end of empire, we have remained an international byword for constitutional stability. Until now.

The anti-conservative backlash that swept Labour to power last May also gave Tony Blair a powerful mandate with which to push through an unprecedented programme of constitutional upheaval. Britain's tried and tested constitutional village has become a giant building site on which the Prime Minister seems determined to erect a legislative new town, a Westminster Garden City for the millennium.

The Scots have been granted tax-raising powers; the Welsh have been told to make do with a financially toothless talking shop; Ireland may even get a council of the Isles. One form of representation has been adopted for the European elections, and others for the Scottish and Welsh assemblies. The Government has promised to prevent hereditary peers voting in the Lords, and our unique revising chamber seems set to become the world's largest quango. New Labour has begun its rebuilding programme with no architectural plans and no architect.

Each innovation weakens our priceless constitutional inheritance. But it also poses a further, crippling, dilemma for the Conservative Party. Should the Tories erect a legislative *Magnat line* in a doomed attempt to block Mr Blair's constitutional blitzkrieg? Or should they acquiesce, and in doing so connive at the destruction of much that they hold dear?

The last-ditch brigade argues that the Tories should use time-wasting techniques at Westminster: to thwart New Labour's legislative programme. But there is no support among the voters for such guerrilla tactics. And Mr Blair would be able to blame his Government's lack of progress in other areas on the Tories.

A second option would be to accept Labour's ad hoc programme, hope that it works, and try not to make too much of an issue of it. Enthusiasts for this approach believe that only by supporting Labour's assemblies in Scotland and Wales can the Tories avoid accelerating the dissolution of the Union. William Hague, says this camp, should be emphasising the common heritage that binds England, Scotland and Wales together, and playing down Labour's meddling as an irrelevance.

But this would amount to endorsing an appalling Labour fudge. Tories cannot afford to accept Labour's constitutional mish-mash, because it is neither credible nor sustainable. Our constitutional heritage would be washed away.

The Tories should develop an alternative programme of reform, and argue out in public the relative merits of the two approaches. First of all, Mr Hague must develop a credible new deal for Scotland and Wales, where his party were left without a seat after the general election.

There must be a clear analysis of the flaws in Labour's approach. The West Lothian problem remains unresolved, as do the difficulties caused by the Barnett formula, which gives Scotland such a generous financial deal. Labour have boasted both sides in their anxiety to deliver on promises to voters in the Celtic fringe. These inequities will provoke a rising English and Scottish nationalism and are almost bound to lead to the break-up of the Union. Indeed, we would certainly be ruled by Brussels at the European negotiating table.

John Barnes, Professor of Politics at the London School of Economics and a leading Tory constitutional authority has written a paper entitled *A Federal Britain* - no longer unthinkable. He argues that far from being intimidated by Labour enthusiasm for constitutional change, the Tories should embrace a federal system that is more radical, logical, understandable and workable than that envisaged by Labour. He advocates the creation of a new English parliament to match the assemblies in Scotland and Wales. Federalism would, he points out, be a Conservative solution, since Tories believe in giving individuals and communities greater control over their own affairs. A federal Britain might even offer a solution to the problem of Northern Ireland. And it would retain the United Kingdom's considerable influence in Europe.

The Conservative Party has a tradition of embracing and thereby controlling change. By embracing federalism, the party could ensure that the United Kingdom was grasped together with hoops of steel and re-established the Tory claim to be the principle source of new ideas in British politics. It would expose the shoddy compromise which Mr Blair is attempting to palm off on the British public. And it could secure the future of the United Kingdom, albeit as a loose alliance into the 21st century. It would be a bold but visionary step. It is a challenge the Tories cannot afford to shirk.

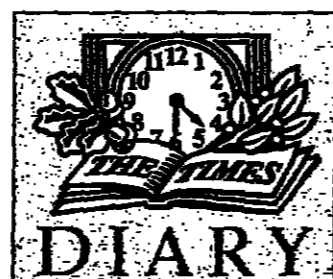
The author is director of the Centre for Policy Studies, which this week publishes *A Federal Britain* - no longer unthinkable by John Barnes.

Cutting edge

SCENES featuring the Prime Minister and his wife have been dropped from a television documentary chronicling the love affair between Pat Phoenix, the late *Coronation Street* performer, and Tony Booth, Cherie Blair's father, who played a *Liverpudlian* in *Till Death Us Do Part*. The popular entertainers were leftwingers who influenced the young couple but the connection has now been edited out by Granada, run by Gerry Robinson, a Blair supporter who is to take over the Arts Council. Granada asked Ron Rose, a left-wing scriptwriter and friend of Phoenix, who played Elsie Tanner, and Booth Sr, to write the story of the soap diva in 1995. Now two scenes, one featuring Phoenix and Booth campaigning for Blair, the other showing Cherie visiting Booth in hospital after he almost burnt himself to death while drunk were cut from the show, to be shown shortly.

"Pat came from the working class and, unlike Cilla Black, continued to support them," says Rose. "She was an emotional influence on the young couple. The original project would have involved the Blair family. As it happened we ended up doing an hour-long film about the love affair and Tony Blair has nothing to do with it." A big camera at Granada says: "When we told Mr Rose we wanted to concentrate on the love story, he agreed to do so. Gerry Robinson does not get involved in programme commissioning."

TONY BANKS is cashing in. The Culture Minister is flogging off some of his prize possessions at Sotheby's. A keen collector of political memorabilia, Banks is likely to offer an instant belonging to Sir Robert Peel, the founder of Conservatism, and an engraving signed by another Tory Prime Minister, the Duke of Wellington. "I am selling to finance the purchase of other artefacts, to develop my collection," says Banks, who also boasts curios once be-



longing to more radical sorts such as John Wilkes and Charles James Fox. When it comes to replacing the stuff, Banks expects competition from Michael Heseltine and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare: "They are the sort who are not short of a few bob at auctions."

HIS decision to toll up at a Burns Night party last week has not endeared the Asian MP, Piara Khabra, to the Scots. When invited to make a toast and read a short extract from the poet's work, Khabra refused: "I'm sorry but I can't read Scottish and I can't understand a word Scottish people say." Despite some less than polite rebukes, Khabra remains unrepentant. "It's difficult to understand a thick Scots accent and it is the same with the

Welsh," he says. "I understand if people feel the same about my accent."

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Model pupil: Caroline Dalmeny adult education class," she says. "I call myself Ms Dalmeny to avoid confusion." Lady D, 29, who holds an English BA from London University, hopes her legal training will smooth her return to Westminster. "I'd like to train as a barrister because it would be so useful in politics, especially with things like social policy." Is this shorthand for "I want to be an MP"?

JASPER GERARD



THE FINGER POINTS

To restore public trust in the lottery, Davis must go

After a libel court found that one of its directors was guilty of attempted bribery, the lottery operator Camelot claimed last night that "it's business as usual". It is this combination of arrogance and insouciance that has so infuriated those who have watched the National Lottery slide into public disrepute under the management of Camelot. The time has come for a serious reassessment of the regulation and operation of Britain's national game.

The jury found that Guy Snowden, chairman of GTEch, which runs the technical side of the lottery, had tried to bribe Richard Branson, who was trying to win the lottery contract with his not-for-profit consortium. GTEch had run into regulatory difficulties in the US; it was always going to be a risky choice for Britain. Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, admitted in court that he had had reservations about GTEch's involvement in the Camelot consortium before he awarded the contract. Yet, so impressed was he by the company's technical expertise, that he decided to turn a blind eye to its reputation.

This decision looked odd enough at the time. Its lack of wisdom was confirmed after it emerged that Mr Davis had accepted hospitality and free flights from GTEch when he visited its operations in America. Now Mr Davis will have a hard time convincing the public that Mr Snowden's behaviour was an isolated incident rather than a symptom of the culture that pervaded his company.

Mr Snowden has resigned from his UK directorships and will play no further part in the operation of the lottery. GTEch remains a Camelot shareholder and supplier, and while this is the case, the lottery will struggle to win back the trust of the British people.

Is Mr Davis himself the man to help to restore that trust? Faced with a hard-nosed lottery company like GTEch, he has shown innocence bordering on culpable naivety. As we have commented at every turn of his sorry tenure of office, he has exhibited not just weakness and bad judgment but

incompetence too. A National Audit Office report published last summer found that of the 21 checks to be conducted on Camelot, Ofwat had run only one. A member of the Public Accounts Committee, the Labour MP Alan Williams, said then that the report exposed "the worst administrative incompetence" he had ever seen and that there had been "quite inadequate protection of the public interest".

To add to these charges, Mr Davis has also been described by members of the committee as "dilatatory" and "unimaginative" in his supervision of Camelot. Moreover, he has shown scant regard for accountability by trying to minimise public scrutiny of his office. He was keen for the committee not to publish evidence that they had dragged out of him, for fear that it would have an "adverse impact on lottery revenue".

If anything has an adverse impact on lottery revenue, it is the public's perception that Camelot has not been adequately regulated. It was always going to be wrong that the same person should have to choose the operator, be responsible for maximising the revenue to good causes (and therefore the profit to the operator) and ensure the efficiency and probity of the operation. A robust and effective regulator might have managed to reconcile these conflicting demands. Mr Davis has been neither robust nor effective.

When the operating licence is next contested, the director-general will be able to act on the advice of an independent panel in granting the contract. And once the current Lottery Bill gains Royal Assent, he will be able to use financial sanctions short of revoking the licence if the operator behaves badly. But for now, the director-general must decide whether GTEch should continue to play a part in the Camelot consortium. The man whose links with GTEch have already been shown to be too close should not be taking such a decision. Mr Davis should have resigned long ago. He no longer commands public confidence. If the lottery is to win its place as a respected national institution, the director-general must go.

HOWARD'S UNWANTED END

The Republic of Australia is coming closer

John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, yesterday warned the special People's Convention looking at Australia's constitution that a republic could weaken the country's system of government. But he conceded that most Australians now support the replacement of the Queen as head of state. He thus acknowledges Australia's dilemma: how can a change, which most people want, be effected without impairing a system of government that has served the country well? And how can a republican constitution be devised that does not add another layer to an already over-governed country?

The 152 delegates meeting in Canberra begin today looking at detailed proposals for change. This is not what Mr Howard intended. He came to power on a promise to halt what many in his party saw as a heading rush into republicanism, one made more precipitate by the anti-British rhetoric of his Labour predecessor Paul Keating. Mr Howard saw the convention as a stalling tactic, allowing the heat to drain out of what had become a partisan debate. To his dismay he found not only that a majority of delegates were elected on a republican platform, but that opinion polls now show a bigger majority than ever in favour of a change. The outcome is already clear: the convention will propose the replacement of the Queen by an Australian president. Mr Howard will then put this to a referendum, which is expected to endorse the change overwhelmingly.

Some Australian monarchists, but only a few, want to keep the Queen as a symbol of Australia's history and heritage. They see a threat to Australia's identity as a nation of predominantly European descent, hold no truck with moves to align it more closely with Asian neighbours and oppose any

immigration policy that increases the proportion of Asians. Some Republicans, especially those from the same milieu as Mr Keating, are motivated by anti-British sentiment, historical resentments, and a fierce antagonism to "cultural cringe".

The danger of any protracted debate is that these two extreme poles will attract increasing support. At present, the majority is motivated largely by a new-found self-confidence and patriotism, a wish to give Australia its own identity in the run-up to the Olympics and a general weariness with the antics of the younger members of the Royal Family. Significantly there is, so far, little hostility to the person of the Queen or to Britain. Indeed a poll found that whereas a certain percentage would vote for a republic, if a second question was added in a referendum asking whether they would like this to take effect only after the death or abdication of the Queen, very many more would support the proposition. Many Australians have taken oaths of loyalty to the Queen, and have no wish to go back on their pledges.

Whether a president should be elected by universal suffrage or by a parliamentary majority is a matter that raises questions about popular mandates and political credibility. The constitutional question may also become entangled in the national debate now swirling around Aboriginal rights. It is far from clear that all states, as required, would endorse a republic. But for Britain and the Royal Family, these are issues that must be decided only by Australians. Britain will welcome any properly debated outcome; what no one wants is a spurious argument taking on anglophobic tones that upset the present excellent relations between Britain and Australia.

DON'T FLY WITH ME

Politicians should travel light

Dr Tony Wright, the Labour member for Carnock Chase, has risked the wrath of his colleagues' partners by arguing for an end to the tradition of politicians taking their other halves with them when on official business abroad. There may be some ministers' spouses who would miss the screwtop Sauvignon in business class but they should really ask themselves, in an echo of sterner days: is your journey really necessary?

Dr Wright is not making a partisan point. As an aide to the Lord Chancellor, he cannot be accused of fighting for the Roundheads. His case, like the wallpapering of his boss's room, is an example of the overdue overhaul of something taken too long for granted. It is a necessary modernisation.

It may have been appropriate for ministers to take their wives along to the Delhi Durbar in an age before supersonic travel, when trips abroad meant months away and a succession of diplomatic garden parties rather than business breakfasts. Now that travel is quicker, trips shorter, ministers more numerous, visits more utilitarian and spouses more likely to have jobs of their own, wives and husbands are no more needed en voyage than parasols and punkah-wallahs. There will still be occasions when it is

appropriate for spouses to accompany senior ministers. The Prime Minister should not feel that he has to leave his wife to work through her legal briefs when he is at state banquets and major summits. There is an obvious role for First Ladies or future Sir Denises on important occasions such as G8 meetings. But even there the official "spouses' programme" can seem touchingly inappropriate. Are brilliant legal minds such as Hillary Clinton's and Cherie Booth's really fruitfully engaged watching Grange Hill's fifth form jazz ballet routine in the delightfully refurbished surroundings of Cambridge Town Hall?

While there will always be exceptions, the Government should make it a general rule for ministers to leave their spouses, like domestic controversies, at home when they go abroad. Many already observe a self-denying ordinance and many spouses, already weighed down by constituency expectations, will probably be relieved not to feel that they should make the effort to go to Sarajevo for the trade mission. Not only will a modest sum be saved, but business will be dispatched more quickly by uxorious ministers anxious to abandon the burly-burly of the departure lounge for the pleasures of home.

Moves to televise rail crash inquiry

From Mr Gareth Watkins

Sir, The Health and Safety Commission is thought likely to propose the admission of television cameras into the public inquiry into last September's Southall rail crash, in which seven people died. I would argue strongly against such a procedure. Having been involved in numerous public inquiries following fatal accidents, I know the pressures that individuals experience even in a situation which normally involves only a few people at any one time.

No public pressure is brought to bear on witnesses at these inquiries: as a result proceedings sometimes border on the confessional, and the coroner carefully elicits crucial information from someone who may still be suffering emotional upset and distress. Witnesses are able to walk away knowing that they have played their part and their public ordeal is over.

All of this would go out of the window with the introduction of the bright lights of television and the seemingly never-ending discussion and analysis of testimony across the broadcast networks. In a media-driven age, and given the desire for public accountability, it is difficult to recognise that there are some things still best done in semi-privacy.

A public inquiry, like an inquest, is there to discover the cause of an accident and to determine how people died. That is where justice must be done and that is where the public responsibility lies. It would be a grave injustice to those who died in the Southall crash if the camera was allowed to prejudice that process.

Yours sincerely,
GARETH WATKINS
(Partner and Head of Health and Safety),
Nabarro Nathanson (solicitors),
1 South Quay, Victoria Quays,
Wharf Street, Sheffield S2 5SY.
January 29.

Politicians' privacy

From Mr Noel Falconer

Sir, Several recent articles have argued that politicians should be allowed privacy in personal matters. Arguments to the contrary have, however, been neglected.

The first of these is democracy itself, our right to be represented by the person we prefer. How are we to make an informed choice if we are denied critical information? For the degree to which a candidate honours obligations of whatever sort, is critical. These MPs legislate, they make the rules that control our behaviour. Anyone who does this should be more honest, more moral, than the rest of us — and we are entitled to know if he or she falls short. If this forces better behaviour upon them, is this not what they are attempting to impose upon us?

Media muck-racking around politicians serves the public interest.

Yours etc,
NOEL FALCONER,
223 Bramhall Moor Lane,
Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 5JL.
a2020258@infotrade.co.uk
February 2.

Art training

From the Master of The Art Workers Guild

Sir, All praise to Tom Hudson (obituary, January 27), whom I never knew, for developing the creativity of his students through experiments in "visual language, the use of materials and the development and communication of visual ideas".

However, your obituarist in his eloquence goes on to pinpoint one of the great weaknesses of the 20th century when he explains how such courses "reduced the emphasis on learning art through the development of craft skills".

Only a fortnight ago (January 10) you devoted nearly a quarter of a page to highlighting the sad fact that Madame Tussaud's has had to search in Eastern Europe for sculptors capable of producing good likenesses because "art school training in Britain is so dire".

Perhaps now, at the end of the century, we can start to reinstate traditional skills, not in order to reject the advantages gained from Bauhaus-inspired curricula, but so that those compelled by the desire for personal expression have the requisite vocabulary and craft to fulfil their vocation more fully.

Yours faithfully,
PEYTON SKIPWORTH,
Master,
The Art Workers Guild,
6 Queens Square,
Bloomsbury, WC1N 3AR.
January 28.

Obituary survivors

From Mrs Charmian Whitwell

Sir, My uncle, Sir Michael Tippett (letters, January 13, 21, 27), is survived by his music and, by chance, a great-grand-niece, whose birth on his 93rd birthday brought delight to his last few days. She may inherit his genius.

Yours faithfully,
CHARMIAN WHITWELL,
Pippins, Fieldside, Upton,
Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 9HY.
January 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Housing pressures on the green belt

From Mr Julian Grainger

Sir, The debate about whether the UK "needs" 4.4 million new homes (letters, January 29) cannot be left to distant civil servants and here-today-gone-tomorrow builders. Many thousands of real people will have their lives transformed by remote planning decisions over which they will effectively be powerless.

The granting of planning permission can increase the value of agriculture land from £2,500 per acre to £300,000 per acre and more. This is truly a windfall for the applicant at the expense of the neighbours, with planning committees often unable or unwilling to be even-handed (as I know from my time as a councillor).

One way to reduce some of the suspicions, mistrust and outright opposition would be to apply the concept of "the polluter pays". I believe that both the German and Australian systems, for instance, recognise this concept and the fact that neighbours have rights and can be compensated.

Planning authorities can ask for and receive "planning gain" extras from big developers in return for permission, but the money saved remains in council coffers rather than benefiting the people affected by the decision.

Developers should negotiate compensation directly with the designated neighbours. Thus the enormous profit from the granting of planning permission can be redistributed to those left to face the changed environment.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN GRAINGER
(Councillor, London Borough of Bromley, 1990-94),
30 Homestead Road, Chelsfield,
Orpington, Kent BR6 6HW.
January 29.

From Mr Derek Matthews

Sir, As one involved for the past year in fighting a local planning decision, I welcome Nick Nuttall's report of January 26. "Five reasons why official housing figures may be wrong". In this small village — one of the two adjacent Kelleys, five miles north of Lancaster; combined population, 1,600 — a housing association applied last February for planning permission to build four "affordable" houses on a green site at the village edge. Before

Taxation of barristers

From Mr D. D. Culley

Sir, If the fees note has been rendered to a client, surely a barrister has no cause for complaint if he is taxed at that point (letters, January 26). Most businesses pay tax on their sales, not on receipts.

The fact that the fees note remains unpaid for some time is irrelevant. It may be that the barrister has to agree better payment terms with the client's solicitor or charge interest, but this must be between those two parties and should not affect the Government's collection of tax. Should a fee be disputed or reduced, then bad-debt relief will be available in his annual accounts in the normal way.

If a fee has not been rendered or even agreed, surely the outstanding work can be included in the barrister's accounts but valued on a prudent basis. This would normally be at the lower of cost or market value. Assuming that the public view that lawyers enjoy an enormous mark-up in calculating their fees is correct, surely this would reduce their tax problem to manageable proportions.

Yours faithfully,
D. D. CULLEY
(Chartered accountant),
Kingslee House, Ridley Hill,
Kingswear, Devon TQ6 0BY.
January 26.

Torture in Algeria

From the Director of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

Sir, The Algerian Ambassador (letter, January 21) described the two torture victims who spoke out against the Algerian regime (report, January 15) as "mentally sick". Both men have indeed needed prolonged treatment at the Medical Foundation for depression and ancillary disorders — but only because of the sustained torture they suffered at the hands of the Algerian security services.

Their stories are not unique. In the years 1994-97, doctors at the Medical Foundation examined 43 male Algerian asylum-seekers who between

this could be allowed exceptional local need had to be proved.

The statistic given by our ward councillor to the parish council, and the key to the case later presented to the Lancaster City Council planning committee, was that in 1995 there were 81 dual (ie, two-family) households existing in the Kelleys, thus indicating exceptional need for new housing. That, if true, would mean that 162 families were living in shared accommodation — say 400 people in all.

A few residents and parish councillors, astonished by the stated figure, sought to establish the current truth by doing their own survey, door to door. Only two dual households were discovered in Nether Kellet, and neither family wished to live in the proposed new location.

Nevertheless, the figure of 81 appears to have been swallowed whole by the Lancaster planning committee, and the application has been approved. So much for the value of housing statistics!

Yours faithfully,
DEREK MATTHEWS,
1 Laithburts Lane,
Nether Kellet,
Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 1EB.
January 29.

From Dr John Cordwell

Sir, John Prescott (article, "The green belt is safe with us", January 26) fails to appreciate that it is the Government who must take a lead in determining where the houses should go. It is not sufficient to leave it to the regions.

In the South West we have few brownfield sites, large areas of protected landscape and high levels of inward migration accounting for two-thirds of the housing need.

National guidance is required on the distribution of houses between the regions to maximise the use of brownfield sites. Then all Mr Prescott has to do is to persuade people to live there.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CORDWELL
(Deputy Chairman, South West Regional Planning Conference),
13 Haw Street,
Wotton-under-Edge,
Gloucestershire GL12 7AC.
cordwell@clara.net
January 29.

Firearms legislation

From Mr A. B. Macnab

Sir, I was interested to read (report, January 26) that British shooters are now being forced to take their pistols abroad in order to pursue their sport.

Gunsmiths and firearms dealers who have had their businesses effectively devastated by firearms legislation are also suffering hardship. As one who has seen a lifetime's work rendered useless, I was faced with an income tax demand to be paid by the end of January or face a substantial fine and interest charge.

Having handed over most of my stock (that which is now rendered illegal) to the Home Office before the September 30, 1997, deadline, I still await two thirds of my (inadequate) compensation, about £20,000. This means that, because of the Government's inefficiency, I have to borrow money to pay to the Government.

No doubt someone will be prepared to explain the logic and justice of this, but the explanation will have to be good to persuade me and the many others who find themselves in a similar situation.

Yours,
A. B. MACNAB,
Coach Harness, Haughley,
Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 3NS.
sandmacnab@aol.com
February 2.

Millennial moment

From Dr M. L. West, FBA

Sir, I beg you to publish no more tedious, pedantic letters, such as the two you print today, from those who want us to postpone celebrating the millennium until we have seen 2000 safely to its end. They prate of numeracy, but know not the joy of numbers.

It is not an anniversary that we shall be celebrating, because nothing whatever happened at either the beginning or the end of 1 BC (certainly not the birth of Jesus). What we are getting excited about is that all the numbers will change.

It is like seeing 99,999 turn into 100,000 on the car mileometer. That's what it's all about.

Yours sincerely,
M. L. WEST,
All Souls College, Oxford OX1 4AL.
January 26.

Political hotbed

From Mr Vaughan Bishop

Sir, Your obituary of Xenia Field, a former member of the Labour Party group on the London County Council (January 27), contained the following: Her range of acquaintances was wide and eclectic — a particular friend through a shared interest in roses being Randolph Churchill. She possessed a host of even more right-wing acquaintances through her association with the Royal Horticultural Society.

Should we be further informed of the activities at Wisley?

Yours faithfully,
VAUGHAN BISHOP,
23 Glenhorne Road,
Kingston upon Thames KT1 2UB.
vaughan.bishop@riad.pkc.uk
January 30.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN RICHARD GATEHOUSE

Captain Richard Gatehouse, DSC and two Bars, wartime submarine commander, died on January 19 aged 81. He was born on March 16, 1916.

Dickie Gatehouse was one of the daring and resourceful band of submariners who, despite sustaining severe losses, took the war to the enemy in the narrow and enclosed waters of the Mediterranean during desperate days when Axis air power was inflicting huge damage on the Royal Navy's surface ships. The island fortress of Malta - in the words of the historian Corelli Barnett - became "the Verdun of the naval war", and the cutting of Rommel's supply lines to North Africa was a strategic imperative.

The son of an army officer and first cousin to Major General A. H. Gatehouse (who himself made a reputation as a brilliant commander of armoured forces in the desert campaign), Richard Gatehouse joined the navy in 1929 and the submarine service in 1937. After a tour in the submarine L23 he was appointed to the new "T" Class boat, Trident, under construction at Cammell Laird's yard at Birkenhead.

By lucky chance, he was one of three officers out of 12 who did not go to sea to gain experience of the class in the Thetis on that fatal day, June 1, 1939, when the submarine was lost with almost all hands - 99 crew and civilian technicians - in Liverpool Bay. It was the Royal Navy's worst submarine disaster and a tragedy widely remembered even today. Turning up at the Birkenhead shipyard, Gatehouse was told, to his disappointment at the time, that there were already enough officers on board to witness the proving trials, and was invited to spend the rest of the day playing golf.

He thus became a spectator, with the rest of the nation, and not a victim of the four-day agony of the Thetis which was reported daily on the wireless and in the newspapers, as successive attempts to salvage the submarine and rescue her crew all came to nothing. Only four men, who got out during the early moments of the disaster, which was caused by a faulty torpedo tube, escaped. The rest

were either drowned or were suffocated as the air in the boat ran out. When the war in Europe moved from the "phony" to the active stage, with the opening of Hitler's offensives in the West, Trident was seen in the thick of the action. The German invasion of Norway in April 1940 saw the submarine, with Gatehouse as "third hand", in the Skagerrak where she sank the tanker Rosinon and then spent two days inside Selbjornfjord. There, with great daring in an area dominated by the Luftwaffe, Trident surfaced to sink the supply ship Hugh Staines.

Appointed second-in-command of the Triumph, Gatehouse next saw action in the Mediterranean, based on Alexandria. In May 1941 Triumph sank a merchant ship inside Benghazi harbour by firing a torpedo through the entrance. On June 21, off the North African coast, Triumph was surprised to see the Italian submarine Salpa surfacing some four hundred yards ahead. Surfacing herself, Triumph sank the Italian with one torpedo after a brisk gun duel at short range. While attacking coastal shipping which was keeping well inshore, Triumph was actually hit by coastal artillery - a rarity. For his contribution to five successful war patrols, Gatehouse was awarded the DSC.

Having returned home and passed the commanding officers' qualifying course, he briefly commanded a training submarine before being appointed captain of the Sportsman, then under construction at Chatham. Sportsman arrived off Algiers in May 1943 and joined the 8th Submarine Flotilla. Over the next 12 months Gatehouse and Sportsman carried out ten aggressive patrols, sinking more than 20,000 tons of Axis shipping.

In September 1943 Sportsman nearly came to grief in a "friendly fire" incident involving an American bomber. She had just rescued 44 Italian sailors from a sunken destroyer and was proceeding to port on the surface within a safety zone when she was depth-charged by a paravelling Liberator. Two depth charges landed on the submarine, one exploded in the air and severely burnt the officer-of-the-watch. Gatehouse dived to avoid further attack, but another



Dickie Gatehouse as a young lieutenant in 1940

depth charge that had landed on the bridge exploded at its set depth of 25ft. Severely damaged, Sportsman made it back to Algiers for repairs.

Nevertheless, Gatehouse and his submarine were able to return to the fray. His last sinking, in April 1944, was the 6,000-ton Lineburg off Heraklion, a severe blow to the German garrison in Crete. This was a notably brave and skilful attack since the Lineburg was escorted by

three destroyers, five frigates and many aircraft: the sea was calm and sonar conditions were perfect for the surface forces. Sportsman fired only two torpedoes, both hit the target.

Returning home to England in June 1944, Gatehouse was awarded a Bar to his DSC and appointed to command the second of a new class of submarine being built by Vickers at Barrow, the Astute. Teething troubles and design faults meant that it was

not until early 1946 that Astute reached Hong Kong. Here Gatehouse left her and joined the cruiser Bermuda, returning home at last in 1947.

He was promoted to commander in 1948 and after two appointments in the Admiralty was assigned to the US Armed Forces Staff College. In 1952 he commanded the destroyer Charity in the Far East during the Korean War and was awarded a third DSC for his contribution to the operations carried out by the Royal Navy on the west coast of the Korean peninsula. This was a major campaign, with carrier-borne air strikes, a blockade and intensive bombardments in support of land forces. Charity's contribution was two North Korean trains which she destroyed with gunfire.

In June 1953 tuberculosis was wrongly diagnosed and Gatehouse was invalided home. But he was subsequently re-assessed as fit and given command of the destroyer Tenacious in the Londonderry Flotilla. Promoted captain in 1956, he was appointed naval attaché to the embassy in Bonn.

The financial and political crisis caused by the Suez debacle of 1956 led to a defence review, and the "Sandys Axe" (named after the Defence Minister Duncan Sandys) brought a reduction of service manpower. Gatehouse took early retirement in 1958 and joined the management of British Petroleum, where he worked for 18 years.

Described by a contemporary as "the soul of incorruptibility", he operated at first in Italy, then in Vienna and behind the Iron Curtain in Warsaw, Prague and Budapest, laying much of the foundations of BP's Eastern European presence. His discretion earned him great respect.

As a young officer, he had boxed for the navy (an ancestor, John Gully, had been Prize Ring champion of England in 1807 and 1808) and was a keen shot and fly-fisherman. A member of the Royal Cruising Club, he was a highly competent off-shore sailor, a term he preferred to "yachtsman".

He is survived by his wife Hazel, whom he met when she was a Third Officer in the Wrens in Algiers in 1943, and by their two sons and two daughters.

OLIVER REYNOLDS

Oliver Reynolds, drama teacher, died on January 20, aged 89. He was born on May 2, 1908.



AMONG the actors profoundly influenced by Oliver Reynolds at the Central School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art were Dame Judi Dench, Vanessa Redgrave, Julie Christie, Jeremy Brett, James Bolam and James Fox. Two of his acting students and one member of staff went on to write under his guidance: Paul Bailey, the novelist, and Ann Jellicoe and Terence Frisby, playwrights of very different schools.

Oliver - or Ollie, as he was known at Central - was a puritan, a severe, neat, gnome-like figure amid the theatrical exuberance. His unwavering standards and lethal wit made him disliked and feared even by some of his pupils; but in a profession where hyperbole so often distorts, his uncompromising attitude and piercing insight earned him respect and love sometimes only just this side of idolatry. He was as passionate about good work as he was scathing about rubbish and laziness.

He was always available for private conversation in the mews house which he owed to his private means. As soon as a student walked through the door, the tough tutor mellowed into the charming host. All was grace except for his alarming prolonged silences. To fill these, students found themselves burbling out all their hopes and fears. But eventually they learnt the art of the dramatic pause.

Despite his homosexuality, Reynolds had no time for camp excesses in acting, but insisted always on a proper study of the text.

Oliver Reynolds was the son of a Bourne-mouth architect. After public school, he read law at Cambridge. He trained to act at RADA, and to dance with the Ballet Rambert

at the Mercury Theatre in Nottingham Hill. There he directed productions for Ashley Dukes. His own acting and directing career was brief, but included a stint in a West End revue. Then he saw Michael St Denis's Compagnie Des Quinze, which, in the early 1930s, created a sensation in theatrical circles. Oliver was hooked.

In 1936 St Denis, who was trained by Stanislavsky, started the London Theatre Studio with George Devine. Reynolds joined them and his teaching began in earnest, with, among others, Peter Ustinov, James Donald, Noel Willman, and Yvonne Mitchell.

War closed the studio, but Reynolds was rejected for military service on health grounds, so he returned to Bourne-mouth and taught himself Braille, transcribing books for the blind. After the war, he started his own drama school, but dissolved it to join the Central in 1951. He stayed until the mid-1960s, and during that period the Central rivalled RADA as the source of the best young actors. But Reynolds retired early, believing it immoral to go on teaching students to join a profession which could no longer support them. He spent his long retirement dispensing tea, advice and wit to his former students.

PROFESSOR CHARLES DOWSETT

Professor Charles Dowsett, FBA, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies at Oxford, 1965-91, died on January 8 aged 74. He was born on January 2, 1924.

AS THE first person to hold an academic post in Armenian studies in this country, Charles Dowsett could claim to have been a trail-blazer. But he was more than that. His international influence on Armenian scholarship through his published work - his last

book Sayat-Nova: An 18th-Century Troubadour came out only last year - was wide-ranging and significant. An even wider circle of friends and admirers appreciated his learning and wit. And all who attended his classes in Armenian and Georgian, or enjoyed his legendary hospitality, had their horizons broadened.

Charles James Frank Dowsett went up to Peterhouse in 1947 to read Modern and Medieval Languages. He gained a first in Russian and German, and another first

with distinction in Comparative Philology. For the next three years he studied in Paris, receiving a diploma in Armenian from the Ecole Normale des Langues Vivantes (1952) and a diploma in Georgian from the Institut Catholique (1953).

His doctoral thesis at Cambridge, under the supervision of Professor Sir Harold Bailey (who himself had been the first Nubar Pasha Armenian scholar at Oxford in 1927), was on the History of the Caucasian Albanians written by the 10th-century Armenian historian

Moses Daskhurantsi. In 1954 Dowsett was appointed lecturer in Armenian at the School of Oriental and African Studies (in the University of London). From there he moved in 1965 to the just established Calouste Gulbenkian Professorship of Armenian Studies at Oxford, a post which he held until his retirement in 1991. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1977.

Dowsett's gifts as teacher were given free rein in Oxford. He opened his classes to all with an interest in the

Caucasian or comparative philology. Each would contribute according to ability, from visiting professors to struggling amateurs. Discussion could veer off course to any literary or linguistic topic, however tortuously connected to the set text. He tended to run his classes consecutively, all on one day, thus enabling those who came from a great distance to share in the many discussions.

Exhausted students on those "Armenian Days" were revived by the lavish lunches provided by his wife Friedel. In the 1980s his health declined, and after Friedel's death in 1984 he had to teach at home. Nonetheless, under the auspices of Frau Anli Kupper his hospitality remained as generous as before, and courses at the Universitat Bodleiana (for his personal Armenian library off the Bodley Road rivalled that of the Bodleian) continued to be one of the more unusual Oxford experiences.

He and his wife had no children.

DR RICHARD COHEN

Dr Richard Cohen, CB, former Chief Scientist at the Department of Health and Social Security, died on January 8 aged 90. He was born on February 1, 1907.

THE appointment of Dick Cohen as first chief scientist at the Department of Health and Social Security in 1972 was the culmination of his achievement over ten years in developing its research programme. Once described by Richard Crossman as the most intelligent person he had met at the DHSS, Cohen built up an annual budget of £15 million, which was used to co-ordinate research projects across the country. The treatment and rehabilitation of heart patients, the value of hospices and of screening programmes for cervical cancer were among the matters investigated under his lead.

Cohen was an ideas man, and became the inspiration for a novel by his close friend C. P. Snow. He had made his reputation during his 14 years at the Medical Research Council. It was said that he knew everyone who mattered - and they all knew him. Yet he did not begin studying medicine until his mid-twenties, after trying his hand as a writer and theatre critic.

Richard Henry Lionel Cohen was born in Paddington, into a rich Jewish family, in a household with eight servants, including a butler called Jonathan, whom he once looked upon as his best friend.

He went from prep school to Clifton College, where he boarded in Polack House, which was reserved for Jewish boys. From there he won an exhibition to King's College, Cambridge, to read English and classics. At about this time he abandoned Judaism to become a contented

and non-proselytising atheist. At Cambridge he met C. P. Snow, who based The Consciousness of the Rich on the Cohen family. But Cohen ("Charles March" in the book) persuaded Snow to delay publication until after his father's time, and it did not appear until 1958, out of sequence in the Strangers and Brothers saga.

On graduating, Cohen dabbled in writing for a while, uncertain what to do next, before meeting his future wife, Margaret, a PhD student who

helped to give his life direction. The daughter of a Scots Presbyterian minister from a mining village near Glasgow, she was already a Liberal activist and a friend of Lady Violet Bonham Carter. By developing Cohen's social conscience she helped him to find his true vocation, as a doctor.

Margaret coached him in trigonometry on their honeymoon, while he struggled to qualify at Cambridge and St Bartholomew's Hospital, which he finally did in 1940.

Cohen and his wife suffered a deep sadness when their first child, a daughter, was still-born. During the war, however, they looked after two German schoolgirls who had been sent abroad by their parents to escape the Nazis. The girls rejoined their parents in the United States after 1945, but maintained a close relationship with the Cohens and were both at Dick's 90th birthday party.

Margaret Cohen died in 1996. Dick Cohen is survived by their son.

Afflicted by poor eyesight, he spent the war as a hospital doctor in East London and in Ilford. He emerged as a committed supporter of the National Health Service.

In 1948 he was taken on by the Medical Research Council to head its publications department, writing up and editing committee findings, including an early report on the effects of atomic fall-out.

After nine years he became deputy head of the council, but by 1962 his relationship with his boss had reached breaking point. It was then that Sir George Godber, chief medical officer at the health department, offered him a job as his deputy, concentrating on applied medical research. He never looked back, establishing the new post of chief scientist a year before retiring in 1973.

Dick Cohen was a highly literate scientist, with a reputation as a wit and raconteur. In his youth he played the violin and competitive chess, but in retirement, in Edinburgh and then in Cambridge, he spent his time with family and friends. C. P. Snow continued to consult him as a doctor long after he gave up practising, anxiously telephoning in the small hours if his baby son developed a rash or a sniffle.

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Bank's duty of confidentiality

Christofi v Barclays Bank plc
Before Mr Lawrence Collins, QC
(Judgment January 19)

A bank's duty of confidentiality to its customers did not apply to information which a customer had imparted to it during the course of the relationship of banker and customer in confidence but which had, as a matter of statutory right, already been made known to the recipient of the information.

Mr Lawrence Collins, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment, given in chambers, allowing an appeal from Master Dwyer who on October 28, 1997 had refused to strike out a claim by Mrs Elli Christofi against Barclays Bank plc as disclosing no cause of action.

Mr Jeffrey Bacon for Mrs Christofi; Mr John Odgers for the bank.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Mrs Christofi complained, inter alia, that in breach of express instructions and its implied duty of confidence, the bank had informed Mrs Christofi's husband's trustee in bankruptcy that a caution against dealing in favour of the trustee which had been placed on property owned by Mrs Christofi at the Land Registry had been warned off.

As a result, the trustee registered the caution which had

allegedly led to loss and damage to Mrs Christofi.

The process of warning off a caution involved a statutory notice being sent to the cautioner warning him that the caution would be removed if a prescribed period. The cautioner then had to take steps to protect his interest, or lose the benefit of the caution; see section 55 of the Land Registration Act 1925 and rules 218 to 221 of the Land Registration Rules (SR & O 1925 No 1093 (L28)).

The bank, accepting only for the purposes of the strike-out application that the allegation could be proved, argued, first, that if such instructions had been given by Mr Christofi, a bankrupt, on behalf of Mrs Christofi, they were unlawful as being in breach of section 22 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914.

Section 22 (3) and (4) imposed an obligation on a bankrupt to assist to his utmost in the distribution of proceeds among his creditors on pain of being found guilty of contempt of court.

HIS LORDSHIP agreed that the instructions allegedly given by Mr Christofi to "have no contact with the said trustee and not to give the said trustee any information whatsoever" would have been the plainest possible breach of the obligation under section 22 and could not give rise to actionable rights. It made no difference whether the instructions were given on Mr Christofi's own

account or that of his wife.

The bank argued, second, that the duty of confidentiality did not apply to information which had, as a matter of statutory right, already been made known to the recipient of the information.

The fact that the trustee's caution had been warned off by the Land Registry was, as regards the trustee who would have already received notice of the fact, no secret, and was information already in his possession.

The landmark case on the law relating to the banker's implied duty of confidentiality was *Tournier v National Provincial and London Bank of England* [1924] 1 KB 461.

Mrs Christofi submitted that the bank's argument was a distortion of the principle in *Tournier*. For the principle to apply it was not necessary that the information be secret or not obtainable from other sources. It was sufficient that the information had been imparted during the course of the relationship of banker and customer and was expressed to be imparted in confidence.

HIS LORDSHIP accepted the submission that the duty of confidence extended beyond information which was secret. It was clear from the judgment in *Tournier*, especially at pp473 and 485, that the duty extended to information gained during the currency of the account and that it went beyond

the state of the account, and extended to information derived from the account itself.

But the obligation depended on a term implied by law: "the duty is a legal one arising out of contract" (pp473-474). The limits and qualifications of the duty of the bank were a matter of law (p473). The limits of the duty had to be ascertained in accordance with common sense.

In modern times banks had a variety of dealings with persons other than account holders, and it was entirely contrary to the rationale of *Tournier*, concerning the privacy of the customer-banker relationship, that a bank should be bound not to inform a trustee in bankruptcy, making legitimate inquiries of the bank about an account in which the bankrupt had a joint interest with his wife, of a fact which any bank would have had every reason to suppose the trustee already knew, namely that its caution on the matrimonial home had been warned off.

In his Lordship's judgment, Mrs Christofi's real complaint was that she and her husband failed to take advantage of the trustee's error or inactivity, and her effort to make the bank liable for it was wrong to fail. The writ and subsequent proceedings should therefore be struck out.

Solicitors: Richard West Freeman Christofi, Walthamstow; Nicholson Graham & Jones.

Protection of Parma ham

Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma v Asda Stores Ltd and Another
Before Mr Lawrence Collins, QC
(Judgment January 30)

The sale of Parma ham that had been sliced and packaged outside the Parma region was contrary to Italian law, but it was not a breach of the EEC Council Regulation which protected the designation of origin of Parma ham. Accordingly, genuine Parma ham which had been sliced and packaged in England could lawfully be sold as Parma ham in England.

Mr Lawrence Collins, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on a motion brought by Asda Stores Ltd and Hygrade Foods Ltd to strike out the action brought against them by Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma.

Mr Nicholas Green for Asda and Hygrade Foods; Mr Jonathan Cole for the consortium.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Asda supermarkets sold packages of pre-sliced and packaged Parma ham which was sliced and packaged in England by Hygrade Foods Ltd.

Under Italian law (Law No 26 of February 13, 1990 as amended by ministerial decree No 253 of February 15, 1993) pre-packaged sliced Parma ham could only be described as Parma ham if it was sliced and packaged in Parma under the supervision of the consortium. But a foreign state could not, directly or indirectly, enforce its penal or other public laws in England. The consortium could therefore only succeed if the rights which it claimed were conferred by European law and were effective in the UK.

It relied on Council Regulation 2081/92 (OJ 1992 L 061), which established a system for the registration and supervision of community protected designations of origin and geographical indications of agricultural products, and/or of Council Regulation 2082/92 (OJ 1992 L 061), which made provision for a fast track procedure for such registration.

It was accepted that the ham was genuine Parma ham and that its quality was not inferior to Parma ham sliced and packaged in England. Asda and Hygrade asked the court to declare that the EC regulations did not give the consortium the right to prevent the sale of Parma ham which had been sliced and packaged in England.

There was no doubt that the council and packaging regulations contained no express reference to such processes as slicing and packaging. The application for registration of a protected designation of origin by the consortium did include references to the slicing and packaging regulations in Italy but that was not of itself sufficient to bring slicing and packaging

within the regime of the regulations.

There had to be some provision which incorporated, by reference or otherwise, the obligations in those regulations. In his Lordship's view there was no such incorporation.

There had to be a connection between the protected designation of origin and an agricultural product or foodstuff, namely that the qualities or characteristics of the product had to be essentially or exclusively due to a particular geographical environment with its inherent natural and human factors, and the production, processing and preparation had to take place there.

He accepted the defendants' submissions that the references to the production, processing and preparation were references to activities applied to the agricultural production of the foodstuff itself and not the subsequent commercial stages, such as slicing and packaging.

There was no reason to suppose that every rule or provision of national law became protected simply because it was included in an application for registration of a name made to the Commission which was subsequently approved, and every reason to suppose the contrary.

The application for registration might contain a great deal of

background information to enable the member state and the Commission to conduct their own verification processes and the inclusion of extraneous material in the application did not thereby confer on the producer the right to enforce such extraneous matters.

These conclusions were supported by a number of other factors:

First, the Council regulation was based on article 43 of the EC Treaty, implementing the common agricultural policy.

Article 28(1) of the EC Treaty defined "agricultural products" to include "the products... of stockfarming... and products of first-stage processing directly related to those products".

That strongly suggested that the regulation should be interpreted as relating to agricultural activities and not industrial activities such as packaging and slicing.

Second, article 1(2) of Council Regulation 2081/92 provided that the regulation should apply without prejudice to other specific Community provisions. In any event, even without such an express provision, the regulation had to be interpreted so far as possible consistently with the EC Treaty, one of the most important principles of which was the free movement of goods.

The Italian rules on slicing and packaging might amount to

quantitative restrictions on exports, and the regulations should be interpreted in such a way as not to allow such restrictions.

Third, it was a fundamental principle of European law that action taken by the Community had to be proportionate to its objectives. In the present case, the only reason given for requiring the slicing and packaging to take place in the Parma region was that it helped to ensure that Parma ham sold in pre-sliced packages was genuine Parma ham.

Here the evidence was that the ham sold by Asda was genuine Parma ham. To require the ham to be sliced and packaged in the Parma region for that purpose seemed disproportionately to such an aim, and lack of proportionality would be an additional reason for not construing the regulation in that sense.

In his Lordship's judgment, the Council and Commission regulations had the effect of making Parma ham a protected designation of origin, but did not incorporate the Italian rules on slicing and packaging or have the effect of prohibiting the sale of Parma ham, which had been pre-sliced and packaged in England, as Parma ham. The action would accordingly be struck out.

Solicitors: Eversheds, Leeds and Clarke Willmott & Clarke, Turanton Arturo Barozzi.

Prosecution after caution not unfair

Hayter v I and Another
Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Poole
(Judgment January 29)

The launching of a prosecution after the administering of a caution by the police could amount to an abuse of the court's process, nor was there any potential unfairness in such a prosecution.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment when allowing the appeal of the prosecutor, John Hayter, against the decision of Basildon Youth Court Justices on August 4, 1997, staying a private prosecution brought by him against the respondents, I and T, for offences of public order and assault committed by them when aged 16 against his son, on the ground that it was an abuse of process because the respondents had already received cautions from the police officer investigating those offences. The court ordered the case to be remitted to a differently constituted bench.

Mr Luke Blackburn for the prosecutor; Mr John Livingston for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE POOLE said that it was not disputed the prosecutor's

son was assaulted by the respondents causing him actual bodily harm. The investigating officer was of the view that caution was the appropriate disposal.

Each respondent had had the benefit of legal advice, signed a form indicating in terms that a caution did not preclude the bringing of proceedings by an aggrieved party, and was cautioned.

Informations were then laid by the prosecutor against them alleging assault and assault.

The justices were of opinion, inter alia, that cautioning provided an important alternative to prosecution in respect of a young offender where there was an admission of guilt and, in the present case, where the offender was of previous good character, and that, while the administering of cautions did not bar the institution of criminal proceedings by the prosecutor, it was unfair and oppressive to allow the proceedings to continue. They stayed the proceedings and dismissed the informations.

Mr Blackburn submitted, inter alia, that neither the intentions of the cautioning officer nor any broader objective purpose of the caution could be relevant. It was not impossible for the respondents

to receive a fair trial and the trial process contained sufficient common law and statutory devices, for example, sections 76 and 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, to ensure fairness.

Mr Livingston contended that the very purpose of the cautioning procedure as an effective form of disposal would be, if not subverted, seriously and adversely affected if private prosecutions were routinely permitted to take place of offenders who had been cautioned; and that such prosecutions should be stayed unless it could be shown the police had acted wrongly or unreasonably in resorting to the cautioning procedure.

HIS LORDSHIP said that such an argument, if accepted, would present a most significant restraint on private prosecutions that had not existed heretofore and that neither the courts nor the legislature had ever contemplated.

The right of private prosecution was expressly preserved by section 6(1) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985. It was subject to a number of procedural limitations, for example justices' refusal to enter a summons. Attorney-General's power in relation to vexatious litigants and Director of

Public Prosecutions' power to take over private prosecutions and terminate them.

The court should not in effect add what would amount to a further category of constraint to that list to cases in which a caution had been issued. Nor was his Lordship persuaded that there was likely to be a flood of private prosecutions in cases where cautions had been administered if the present appeal was allowed.

There was no unfairness or potential unfairness to the respondents in the proposed prosecution. The trial process contained sufficient common law and statutory mechanisms to ensure fairness.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN, agreeing, added that he quite understood the anxieties the justices had, but that was a disadvantage inherent in the law allowing private prosecutions.

It would not be right for justices or the present court substantially to curtail the options which Parliament had left open to the private prosecutor unless in the circumstances of a particular case abuse of process was shown.

Solicitors: Mr John Hayter, Southend-on-Sea; Diver Harvey & Fallop, Basildon.

Prisoner cannot challenge escape risk evidence

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Mulkerrians
Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Mantell
(Judgment November 6)

A prisoner seeking to challenge his categorisation by the prison authorities as an exceptional escape risk had no entitlement to demand information about the basis on which the decision to place him in that category was arrived at and could be accorded no relief by way of judicial review.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing a renewed application by Coleman Joseph Mulkerrians for leave to move for judicial review of a decision by the prison authorities acting under the Secretary of State for the Home Department that he was an exceptional escape risk.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC, for the applicant; Mr Steven Kovats for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE MANTELL said the applicant, who was 53, had been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for his involvement in importing nearly 800kg of

cocaine. The trial judge had described him as a vital link in the drug importation.

On January 3, 1996, the prison service had written to the applicant's solicitor to say that he had been classified as a category A exceptional high risk prisoner. The letter said the classification had been made on the basis of confidential information, that the applicant had played a prominent operational and organisational role in the activities of a well resourced criminal organisation. He had associates capable of mounting an armed escape attempt.

The applicant was invited to make representations, which he did. A review committee had decided not to change his status, being satisfied on the basis of police information that the external resources he could command justified his being held in the most secure conditions.

In seeking judicial review, the applicant complained of the escape risk classification but not of his category A status.

Once it was acknowledged that the reason given for the classifica-

tion was on its face sufficient, the applicant could only argue that there must either be further information which could properly be disclosed or that the secretary of state's claim that the information was confidential should be independently assessed.

There was a fundamental distinction between the criminal jurisdiction and the High Court's jurisdiction on judicial review. The criminal judge had total control of proceedings and the powers necessary to ensure justice. The High Court had no corresponding power.

Whether sympathy might be felt for the applicant was no relief which he could be accorded by way of judicial review. If there was a lacuna to be filled, it was for Parliament and not for the court.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that as the law stood, as long as his decision was not irrational, as in the instant case it plainly was not, it was for the Home Secretary and not for the court to decide whether in the public interest evidence should be withheld.

Solicitors: Saunders & Co, Treasury Solicitor.

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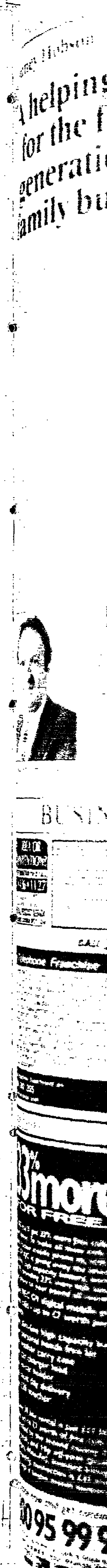
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Rodney Hobson on a forum being set up to discover the secrets of the successful commercial dynasty

A helping hand for the future generations of family business

A FORUM that will investigate why some family firms last for a 100 years while most fail to progress to the next generation is to be formed by the Stoy Centre for Family Business.

breed successful family businesses. Stoy's research indicates that hotels, brewing, printing and book-sellers are fertile ground.

Preserving the inheritance

TONY DUERR swept the floor, as did his two sons. Yet Mr Duerr is the boss of a family company that has survived for more than 100 years and has built the business up to enjoy turnover of £30 million a year.



Tony Duerr has ensured that family members can enjoy jam tomorrow

One momentous decision was taken when word reached Mr Duerr that a wholesaler was deciding the next day on a supplier for own-label jams for a leading chain.

BRIEFINGS

The new family tax credit, widely touted as part of the next Budget, could add to the administrative burdens of small businesses, according to Michael Snyder, senior partner at Kingston Smith.



Bogod: long-term goals

Rules and regulations for good working relations

FAMILY firms should have a family constitution, declares Tony Bogod, of Stoy Hayward. The written statement should set out a consensus of views on issues such as long-term goals, the general philosophy of the business and share ownership.

should be split out, together with how the performance of individual members of the family should be assessed.

maintaining a constitution will bring important issues to the surface and will force families to discuss them.

Accept the importance of open communication when dealing with sensitive issues. Nothing should be done unless the benefits are understood.

jointly whether the constitution is working, perhaps every four or five years.



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Guide to ITF league players and revaluations

Wheeler and dealers will be eyeing the new ITF player values to see if they can improve their team

The third player revaluation of the Interactive Team Football season took effect on Sunday. The new valuations appear in the lists below; altered valuations appear in bold.



Naturally, the changes tend to reflect the fluctuating fortunes of certain clubs as much as variations in the form of an individual. A good defender vainly attempting to stem the tide of goals against an otherwise porous rearguard (the name of Sol Campbell inevitably comes to mind) will lose ITF points however well he plays, thanks to the shortcomings of his colleagues. The revaluations necessarily reflect this.

lack of goals from their forwards has, however, cost them dear; Elan Ekoku and Jason Essell, thought by Joe Kinnear, the manager, to be one of the brightest forward prospects in the FA Carling Premiership, have been sidelined by injury, too much responsibility for scoring goals has fallen too early on the young shoulders of Carl Cort in his debut season in the first team.

Goal-scoring midfield players, of course, are especially valuable in an ITF selection: their goals are worth three points compared with two points for those scored by designated strikers. Elsewhere, groups of players from thriving clubs have increased in value. Blackburn Rovers spring to mind; Tim Flowers is a serious contender for the England goalkeeper's jersey for the forthcoming friendly game against Chile, and Colin Hendry is back to the form he showed in Rovers' championship season, throwing himself in the way of shots at whatever cost to face and limb, but many observers have also been impressed by his defensive partner, Stephane Henchoz. Another double act, Coventry's forward pairing of Dublin and Huckerby, the cutting edge of the Highfield Road renaissance, have gained £2.5 million between them.

Managers stand or fall by results at the best of times. Jim Duffy, of Hibernian, whose ITF valuation was halved over the weekend, was probably even more displeased yesterday when he was dismissed by his employers at Easter Road. A clear case of life limiting art.



Wimbledon's Michael Hughes, right, whose value has increased by £1 million

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

Code	Name	Team	£	FA	ITF	FA	ITF	FA	ITF	Tot
11402	Thomas Myhre	Everton	£2.0m							
11702	Gordon Marshall	Kilmarnock	£1.5m							
32004	Phil Babb	Liverpool	£3.0m							
40905	George Boateng	Coventry City	£1.5m							
42906	Trevor Sinclair	West Ham United	£3.5m							
50404	Jan Aage Fjortoft	Barnsley	£2.0m							
50803	Tore Andre Flo	Chelsea	£4.0m							
52305	Andreas Andersson	Newcastle United	£3.0m							

OUT

11701	Dragoje Lekovic	Kilmarnock	£1.0m							
40701	Andreas Thom	Celtic	£4.5m							
52303	Faustino Asprilla	Newcastle United	£6.0m							
52903	Iain Dowie	West Ham United	£1.5m							

MOVE

21401	Andy Hinchcliffe	Sheffield Wednesday	£2.5m							
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HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-Tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

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COMPLETE ITF PLAYER AND MANAGER LISTS, INCLUDING NEW VALUATIONS INDICATED IN BOLD>

Code	Name	Team	£	FA	ITF	FA	ITF	FA	ITF	Tot
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	1.50	0	2	8	17			
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	13	0	70			
10301	M Boatich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	16	2	52			
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	10	-3	20			
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn	4.00	8	9	15	65			
10601	K Branagan	Blackburn	1.50	0	0	-9	33			
10701	S Kerr	Blackburn	4.00	0	0	0	61			
10702	J Gould	Celtic	4.00	0	8	3	6			
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	0	-3	8	14			
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	67			
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0	0	0			
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	16	0	46			
11101	M Poom	Derby	2.50	0	8	3	21			
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee Utd	2.00	0	2	-5	2			
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	2.00	0	0	0	3			
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	45			
11501	G Rouse	Hibernian	3.50	0	0	-11	-8			
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	0	0			
11602	O Gottschalk	Hibernian	1.00	0	0	0	19			
11701	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	3.50	0	10	8	82			
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.00	0	3	6	70			
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	4.00	0	-5	7	8			
12001	D James	Liverpool	5.00	0	2	2	104			
12101	P Schmelcher	Man Utd	1.00	0	0	0	0			
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	3.00	0	0	0	17			
12301	S Given	Newcastle	5.00	0	3	-3	45			
12401	A Goram	Rangers	2.00	0	5	-3	11			
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	0	-2	26			
12702	P Jones	Southampton	0.50	0	8	8	55			
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	2.50	0	3	0	22			
12801	I Walker	Tottenham	2.00	0	0	0	4			
12901	L Milkoski	West Ham	2.50	0	13	2	72			
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	13	2	72			

Code	Name	Team	£	FA	ITF	FA	ITF	FA	ITF	Tot
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-1	5	-9			
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0	1	8	22			
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	0	5	0	7			
30203	G Girardi	Arsenal	2.00	0	6	5	22			
30204	S Brindley	Arsenal	3.00	0	8	5	22			
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0	4	0	28			
30302	U Ehlogu	Aston Villa	1.00	0	7	4	-13			
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	0.50	0	5	-1	-15			
30402	M Moses	Barnsley	0.50	0	0	0	-10			
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	3.00	5	5	8	43			
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn	3.00	5	9	34				
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn	2.00	0	0	0	2			
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn	1.50	0	0	0	2			
30601	G Teggart	Blackburn	1.00	0	0	0	20			
30602	G Burgess	Blackburn	1.00	0	0	-4	-10			
30603	C Falgout	Blackburn	1.50	0	0	0	1			
30604	E Ammon	Blackburn	1.50	0	1	1	19			
30702	M Mackay	Celtic	3.00	0	5	0	53			
30703	A Sibus	Celtic	3.00	0	5	1	40			
30704	M Ripser	Celtic	3.00	0	-5	5	38			
30801	F Labouaf	Chelsea	3.00	0	-4	4	21			
30802	M Durberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	-4	5	13			
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	0	-3			
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	0	0			
30901	L Daleh	Coventry City	1.50	0	6	1	18			
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	-11	-11			
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	-1	15			
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	10	-1	0			
31002	A Loughan	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0	0	0			
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	0	-2	5			
31004	H Hreidsson	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	0	1	27			
31101	I Stimate	Derby	1.50	0	-1	1	19			
31102	J Laurson	Derby	2.00	0	4	-2	16			
31201	S Pressley	Dunfermline	1.50	0	0	-1	-4			
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	0	0	-1	-13			
31401	S Bilic	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	12			
31402	D Watson	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	12			
31404	C Tiller	Everton	3.00	0	9	0	33			
31501	D Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	0	0	0	24			
31601	D Weatherall	Leeds United	2.50	0	10	0	46			
31802	G Hall	Leeds United	2.00	0	14	2	28			
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0	9	5	27			
31901	L Rabede	Leeds United	3.00	0	3	5	55			
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	2.50	0	3	5	42			
31902	P Kaemmark	Leicester City	2.50	0	-2	1	34			
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.00	0	5	2	13			
31904	S Prior	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	0	0			
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	-2	4	39			
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	-1	0	34			
32003	B Kvarne	Man Utd	3.50	0	1	0	0			
32004	D May	Man Utd	3.50	0	-1	0	44			
32102	G Pallister	Man Utd	3.50	0	0	0	0			
32301	P Albert	Newcastle	3.00	0	4	0	10			
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle	2.00	0	0	5	6			
32303	S Hovey	Newcastle	3.00	0	3	5	18			
32304	A Pistone	Rangers	3.50	0	1	-1	42			
32401	S Porriani	Rangers	3.50	0	0	-1	38			
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	0	0	16			
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	4.00	0	0	-2	5			
32404	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	-2	3	-2	13			
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	-2	3	-2	10			
32503	A Atherton	Sheffield Wed	1.00	0	0	0	-2			
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.50	0	0	-2	9			
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.50	0	-1	-3	17			
32704	K Monkou	St Johnstone	0.50	0	0	0	10			
32801	S McCusky	Tottenham	2.00	0	5	-1	10			
32802	S Scasles	Tottenham	1.50	0	0	-1	6			
32803	R Vega	Tottenham	1.50	0	4	0	12			
32904	C Calderwood	Tottenham	1.50	0	1	-1	11			
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham	2.50	0	0	0	0			
32902	R Hall	West Ham	2.00	0	2	0	16			
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham	1.50	0	1	-1	8			
32903	S Potts	West Ham	2.00	0	2	-1	6			
32904	I Pearce	West Ham	2.50	0	0	0	25			
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	9	0	25			
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	4	-1	21			

Code	Name	Team	£	FA	ITF	FA	ITF	FA	ITF	Tot
40605	J Pollock	Bolton W	2.00	0	1	1	34			
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	0	0	0	26			
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	0	0	24			
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00	0	3	5	62			
42704	C Burley	Celtic	4.00	0	3	1	28			
42705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.50	0	0	3	38			
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	0	0	0	40			
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	2	12			
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	3.00	0	0	0	28			
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	0	20			
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	1.50	0	3	2	29			
40902	J Snelton	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	15			
40903	P Taylor	Coventry City	1.50	0	7	1	29			
40904	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	3	0	0			
41002	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0	0	34			
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	0	0	22			
410										

NEWS

Branson wins lottery libel action

Richard Branson won his High Court libel action against the Camelot director Guy Snowden yesterday, leaving the American businessman to pay £100,000 damages and an estimated £2 million in legal costs.

'Pub purges' to catch drink-drivers

Ministers paved the way for "pub purges" in which police would carry out mass breathalyser-tests outside public houses. Powers similar to the "stop and search" principle, which allows the police to confiscate offensive weapons, have been put forward as a way of countering drink-driving.

Saddam uncertainty

President Saddam Hussein created fresh uncertainty by denying that he had offered a face-saving compromise to Russia's special envoy. The allied military build-up continued.

Fatal farm shooting

A Pembrokeshire farmer using a humane killer to put down a troublesome Limousin heifer missed twice but accidentally shot his best friend through the heart, killing him, a jury heard.

Whitehall battle

A Whitehall power struggle has erupted over proposals by Jack Cunningham, Agriculture Minister, to take new responsibilities for the countryside in a revamped agriculture ministry.

Ageism attack

Ministers are pressing ahead with a voluntary code of practice to banish age discrimination. The Employment Minister said legislation would be fraught with legal problems.

Hallé in crisis

The Hallé, Britain's oldest professional symphony orchestra, is holding crisis meetings to avoid collapse among crippling debts. It needs immediate rescuing from a £600,000 overdraft.

Investiture deferred

Arthur C. Clarke, the British science fiction writer, asked for the "postponement" of knighthood ceremonies that were to have been conducted by the Prince of Wales in Sri Lanka.

Kipling's torment

Rudyard Kipling refused to believe that his 19-year-old son John had been killed in action in Flanders, according to newly released records.

America in the black

President Clinton announced America's first budget surplus for 30 years against a backdrop of polls showing that Americans badly want to forgive.

The PC Navy

The Royal Navy was accused of "dragging itself down" in the name of political correctness after an officer was fined for inadvertently touching a Wren.

German Luddism

Luddite-style sabotage is being attributed to competitive pressure on German industry. Arson, vandalism, computer theft and product poisoning are rife.

Man's face rebuilt

Using family photographs, doctors have rebuilt the face of a civil servant who was so badly injured in a mugging that close friends could not recognise him.

Orthodox models

The world's first Orthodox modelling agency has opened in Israel despite religious taboos imposed by rabbis, who have approved it after much hesitation.

Village aims to lick the Royal Mail

The village post office near Althorp where Diana, Princess of Wales regularly shopped for chocolate is upstaging the Royal Mail today by issuing 10,000 of its own first-day covers of the five special stamps which commemorate her life.



Tracy Edwards with her mother, Pat, before leaving Hamble Point on her non-stop circumnavigation record attempt. Page 50

BUSINESS

Government aid: British Aerospace is to get £123 million for developing a new aircraft and Ford will get £43 million to secure production of a new Jaguar car in Britain.

SPORT

Football: Michael Owen, 18, was named in the England squad against Chile at Wembley next week. If he plays, he will become the youngest England player this century.

ARTS

The entertainer: Behind the beer-bellied, embittered and belligerent stand-up comic Johnny Vegas lies the polite and self-effacing Michael Pennington.

LEISURE

Sightings: An appeal to save a South African child's eyes has met an overwhelming response from readers of The Times.

REUTERS

The group hopes to announce soon the preliminary conclusions of its inquiry into alleged misuse of confidential information from Bloomberg.

PHARMACEUTICALS

The drug sector of the British stockmarket rose by more than 14 per cent in reaction to the Glaxo and SmithKline Beecham merger plans.

MARKETS

The FT-SE 100 index rose 140.5 points to close at 5999.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 105.0 to 104.8 after a rise from \$1.6350 to \$1.6360 but a fall from DM2.9891 to DM2.9803.

MARKETS

Pharmaceuticals: The drug sector of the British stockmarket rose by more than 14 per cent in reaction to the Glaxo and SmithKline Beecham merger plans.

MARKETS

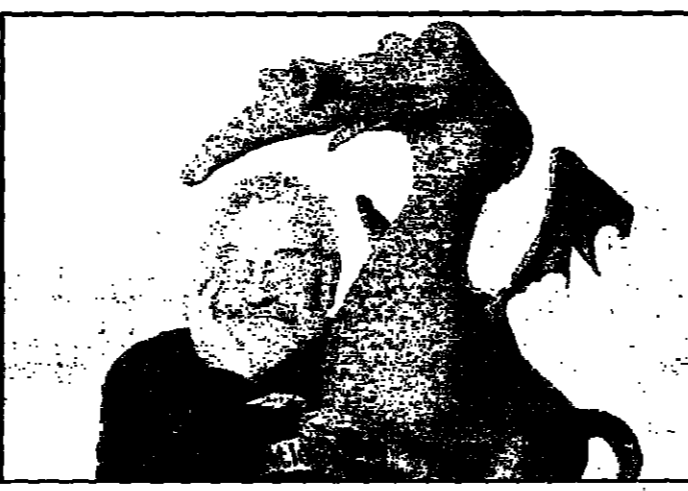
Pharmaceuticals: The drug sector of the British stockmarket rose by more than 14 per cent in reaction to the Glaxo and SmithKline Beecham merger plans.

MARKETS

Pharmaceuticals: The drug sector of the British stockmarket rose by more than 14 per cent in reaction to the Glaxo and SmithKline Beecham merger plans.

MARKETS

Pharmaceuticals: The drug sector of the British stockmarket rose by more than 14 per cent in reaction to the Glaxo and SmithKline Beecham merger plans.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE From Discworld to cyberspace: the secret Web life of Terry Pratchett

HOMES Where will you toast the new year of new years? Houses to rent for the millennium

LEGAL THREAT

The legal difficulties that for several days posed a threat to Bill Clinton's occupancy of the White House.

ONE OF THE EVIL LEGACIES

One of the evil legacies of the Gulf War is that Saddam's Scud attacks on Tel Aviv were accorded a certain legitimacy in the eyes of the world.

CAPTAIN RICHARD GATHOUSE

Captain Richard Gathouse, submarine officer Oliver Reynolds, drama teacher Professor Charles Dowsett, Armenian studies Dr Richard Cohen, scientist.

RAIL CASH INQUIRY

Rail cash inquiry: British Museum purchase; planning permission; taxing barristers.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,705

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the starting squares. The grid is 15 squares wide and 15 squares high.

- ACROSS
1 Rule out one key in overture (6).
5 Current price for buttonhole (6).
10 Elected after resistance by workers in Italian city (5).
11 Relation arrives in state (9).
12 Aim to meet monarch in enclosure when giving service (9).
13 Effort to follow beat in dance (5).
14 Rarebit cooked for adjudicator (7).
16 Unaccompanied painter working inside (6).
19 Energetic sort of host circulating in party (6).
21 Educational expert taking position for support in retirement (7).
23 From Rabelais, lewd passage extracted (5).
25 Sloth, perhaps, ends daily work-out (6,3).
27 Liking to hold back inside information, have a flutter (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,704. A grid of letters corresponding to the crossword puzzle above.

AA INFORMATION

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UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
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Planning to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 505

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Northern Ireland 416 342
Northern Scotland 416 338
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Northern Ireland 416 338
Northern Scotland 416 338
Northern Ireland 416 338
Northern Scotland 416 338

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets 7:36 am Sun sets 4:50 pm
Moon sets 10:45 am Moon rises 10:45 am

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be mainly dry with bright or sunny spells after early frost and fog. Northern Ireland and Scotland will be mostly cloudy, with rain in northwest Scotland spreading slowly southeast.
London, SE, Central S & SW England, Channel Isles: widespread frost with patchy fog at first, then dry with bright or sunny spells. Wind light, variable. Max 7C (45F).
E Anglia, E & W Midlands, E & Cent N England, S Wales: frost and patchy fog at first. Bright or sunny spells, rather cloudy at times. Wind light W. Max 7C (45F).
N Wales, NW & NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: area: local frost inland at first, then rather cloudy. Most places dry. Wind moderate W. Max 6C (43F).
SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Northern Ireland: mostly cloudy, rain spreading SE in afternoon. Wind moderate or fresh, W. Max 8C (46F).
NE & NW Scotland, Orkney: rain becoming persistent. Wind fresh or strong. Max 6C (43F).
Shetland: sleet or snow turning to rain. Becoming milder. Light SE wind becoming fresh SW. Max 7C (45F).
Republic of Ireland: dry with sunny spells. Wind light or moderate, W. Max 9C (48F).
Outlook: dry and bright in south. Cloudier with rain in north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, snow, fog, hail, etc. for various parts of Britain.

ABROAD

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, snow, fog, hail, etc. for various international locations.



Changes to chart below from noon: low C and complex low D will drift east and slowly fill. High A will change little. Low F will drift east and fill.



Warms front, Cold front, Occluded front

TODAY

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, etc. for various international locations.

WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY

Forecast for Wednesday 4 February. High pressure over the Atlantic, low pressure over the North Sea.

THE TIMES

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INSIDE SECTION
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TODAY

ECONOMICS

Janet Bush at the World Forum in Davos
PAGE 31

LAW

Preview of the 1998 woman lawyer awards
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SPORT

Owen's rise leads to Fowler's fall in England reckoning
PAGES 45-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1998

Shares take off as Glaxo's deal with SB fires market

By JON ASHWORTH AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

GLAXO DEAL AS NEXT TARGET OF SPURNED AHP

SHARES in London rocketed 157 points in the first ten minutes of trading yesterday, as dealers reacted feverishly to the impending merger of Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham. Shares in the companies soared on the news, leaving the FTSE 100 index up 157.6 at one stage. It closed up 140.5 at 5,599. Glaxo gained 340p to £19.83 as almost 31 million shares changed hands, capitalising the company at nearly £71 billion. SB shares were up 121p at one stage, but closed 65p higher at 845p. Together, the drugs groups have a market value of £117.4 billion, making the world's second largest company after General Electric of America. Glaxo SmithKline, as the enlarged entity is likely to be called, will have a 7.6 per cent market share. Merck, the US group, has about 4.7 per cent, and Novartis, the Swiss group, about 4.5 per cent.

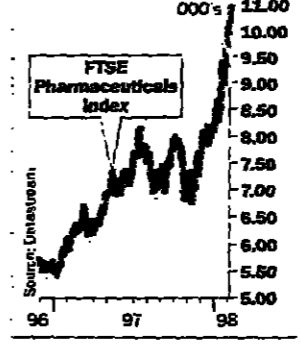
ZENECA, the drugs group, is believed to be the next target of AHP, the US drugs group that failed to agree a merger with SmithKline Beecham (Oliver August writes). Zenecca shares rose by 235p to £26.85p yesterday while AHP shares slipped just 2 per cent after the disappointment over SB's £100 billion union with Glaxo Wellcome. AHP had shot up 15 per cent last week after the disclosure of its merger talks with SB. On Wall Street, analysts predicted a deal could be completed without too many anti-trust problems. Mariola Hagger at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "There are strong rumours about Zenecca and AHP. It's not clear how far they go but there is certainly a lot of competitive pressure on both to do something."

David Molawa of Mehta Partners added: "AHP and Zenecca would be complementary. Both have strong agricultural divisions and a fair amount of overlap in other areas." Referring to litigation relating to AHP's Redux and Pondimin weight loss drugs, Michael Krensavage at Brown Brothers Harriman said: "AHP's legal liabilities won't be a huge impediment. By depressing the stock price, the liabilities have made the company more attractive."

In spite of well publicised medical problems, John Stafford, the AHP chairman, will want to get the top job in any group created by merging with Zenecca. Disagreements over executive posts are said to be the reason for the failure of AHP's talks with SB. Hoare Govett Corporate Finance, Cazenove & Co, and Credit Suisse First Boston de Zotte & Bevan. Because of its size, the merger will be considered by Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, and the US Federal Trade Commission.

Leschly, chief executive of SB, circulated messages to employees yesterday, amid fears that 2,000 or more jobs could be lost in the UK. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, was petitioned by the MSF science and finance union to block the merger. The MSF believes that spending on research and development will be a significant casualty if the merger proceeds. Glaxo Wellcome and SB today begin preparing a formal merger document. They are expected to net fees of about £400 million — much of it in legal fees linked to regulatory matters. Glaxo Wellcome is advised by Slaughter and May in the UK, and Sullivan & Cromwell in the US; SB by Linklaters & Paines. The deal guarantees windfalls for the lead financial advisers — Lazard Brothers and Morgan Stanley — and the companies' brokers.

MARKET HIGH ON DRUGS



BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FTSE 100	5599.0 (+140.5)
Yield	2.91%
FTSE All Share	2281.6 (+52.38)
Nikkei	16776.82 (+148.35)
New York	8054.57 (+148.47)*
Dow Jones	998.18 (+17.90)*
S&P Composite	998.18 (+17.90)*

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5.125%)
Long Bond	103 1/4% (104 1/4%)
Yield	5.86% (5.81%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	7 1/4% (7 1/4%)
12-mth Interbank	12 1/2% (12 1/2%)

STERLING	
New York	1.6380* (1.6330)
London	1.6384 (1.6350)
Paris	1.6384 (1.6350)
Frankfurt	1.6384 (1.6350)
Geneva	1.6384 (1.6350)
Zurich	1.6384 (1.6350)
Basel	1.6384 (1.6350)
Brussels	1.6384 (1.6350)
Amsterdam	1.6384 (1.6350)
Madrid	1.6384 (1.6350)
Barcelona	1.6384 (1.6350)
Valencia	1.6384 (1.6350)
Bilbao	1.6384 (1.6350)
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DOLLAR	
London	1.6380* (1.6330)
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Segovia	1.6384 (1.6350)

WORTH SEA OIL	
Brass 15-day (Apr)	\$15.90 (\$15.95)

GOLD	
London close	\$302.35 (\$302.75)

* denotes muddied trading price

Rank strife sees leisure chief resign

By DOMINIC WALSH

BOARDROOM friction at Rank, the troubled leisure group, spilled into the open yesterday as John Garrett, a director of the company since 1992, was forced to fall on his sword. The announcement followed weeks of speculation of deteriorating relations between Mr Garrett, who headed the group's leisure division, and Andrew Teare, chief executive. A statement from Rank said he had resigned with immediate effect "following differences of opinion over some aspects of the company's strategy". Analysts said the seeds of the problem had been sown in 1996 when Mr Teare — pictured right with Sir Denys Henderson, chairman — was brought in over the head of Mr Garrett. One analyst said: "He wanted the top job, but he didn't get it. He then made the mistake of disagreeing with virtually everything Teare did in a very public way. One of them had to go, and Sir Denys was bound to back Teare."

appear to have been Mr Teare's determination to achieve a 15 per cent return on investment after just two years. Mr Garrett wanted to accelerate expansion. He is also thought to have been unhappy with the £100 million sale and leaseback deal signed with British Land last year, which he felt would mean losing control of some of its best leisure assets. Mr Garrett has been replaced as head of the leisure division by Barry Pickersgill, managing director of Mecca Bingo. Mecca is believed to be one of the bidders for First Leisure's loss-making bingo business. Elsewhere, Rank yesterday unveiled a joint venture with the US National Basketball Association to develop at least ten NBA-themed restaurants around the world over the next three years. Rank's Hard Rock Café chain is to invest \$90 million (£55 million) in the venture.



Reuters presses inquiry

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

REUTERS, the international information group, has told an independent inquiry into alleged misuse of confidential Bloomberg information to give its preliminary conclusions within days. Reuters hopes to be able to shed light on the potentially damaging claims before it unveils full-year results next Tuesday. A Reuters subsidiary, Reuters

Analytics, and three of its executives have received subpoenas to hand over documents relating to the allegations in the US. The New York law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz is finalising its initial independent inquiry for Reuters. Reuters yesterday said it was unable to comment on reports in New York that grand jury investigations, which caused its internal inquiry, centre on allegations that a third party broke into Bloomberg's

computer systems and obtained electronic information that was given to Reuters executives in the US. The allegation, being investigated under industrial espionage laws, is that computer codes may have been obtained improperly. According to the New York Times, investigators are examining whether any of the codes were used in developing the Reuters 3000 machine. Shares in Reuters fell 2p, to close at 546p, in a rising market.

Diageo £800,000 payoff

By DOMINIC WALSH

FINN JOHNSON, the Guinness director who lost out to Jack Kenan of Grand Metropolitan for the top spirits job at Diageo, has been made redundant and will receive an £800,000 payoff. Mr Johnson, who was headhunted to run United Distillers in 1994, became deputy chief executive and chief operating officer when United merged with GrandMet's

IDV business to become UDV as part of the recent Diageo merger. Mr Johnson is expected to return to his native Sweden to seek a chief executive's post. A spokesman said the departure was "entirely amicable". Diageo also announced yesterday that David Tagg, group services director, will take early retirement in July at his own request, and Robert Wilson, chairman of Rio Tinto, the mining

group, will join as a non-executive director. A further non-executive is to be appointed by the time Sir George Bull, joint chairman, steps down to become a non-executive in the summer. The company said the various changes were designed to create a board that was broadly balanced between executives and non-executives, with three executive directors from each side of the Guinness/GrandMet merger, and eight non-executives.

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Taxmen buried under mountain of cheques

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

INLAND REVENUE staff were struggling under an avalanche of cheques and self-assessment forms yesterday as they began sorting out and checking last-minute returns and payments from about 1.3 million taxpayers.

The Inland Revenue said it would not know until tomorrow how many people had met the midnight deadline last Saturday to return their self-assessment forms and pay their tax bills. A spokesman said local tax offices had been too

busy dealing with the flood of paperwork to work out the final number.

Although tax offices were still accepting returns pushed through the letter box on Sunday or received in the post yesterday, up to one million out of the nine million taxpayers who came under self-assessment are thought to have forms or payments outstanding. Late forms will attract a £100 fine while overdue tax will be charged 9.5 per cent interest plus a 5 per cent surcharge in February.

Accountants expressed concern that the

mountain of paperwork would inevitably delay the Inland Revenue notifying people if they had not done their sums correctly and not paid enough tax, because any shortfall will attract interest.

The separate destinations for forms (local tax offices) and cheques (Shipley in Yorkshire and Cumbernauld in Scotland) was also causing problems. David Rothenberg, tax partner at Blick Rothenberg, a firm of accountants in London, said he had been telephoned twice by tax office staff checking whether individual

wealthy clients had paid their bills. Sheena Sullivan, of Parnell Kerr Forster, said the forms needed to be simplified. "The number of people who have struggled with self-assessment shows the new system will never work until the tax system itself is reformed."

David Brodie, of TaxAid, a charity offering free advice, was concerned about demands sent to people who filed their returns after September. "The final demand only referred to the 1996-97 tax year. It did not remind them to make the 1997-98 payment on account."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Staple to spearhead fight against fraud

AN INDEPENDENT panel that will attempt to co-ordinate efforts to combat fraud in all business sectors was launched yesterday. The Fraud Advisory Panel will be chaired by George Staple of Clifford Chance, who headed the Serious Fraud Office for five years. Under the aegis of the Audit Faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the panel will comprise three working parties who will spearhead its work. The first will research the full extent of fraud, the second will create training and prevention measures and the third will put forward measures which will make it easier for the law to deal with fraudsters.

The aim is for the working parties to report as soon as possible and for the panel to act as a co-ordinating body representing business, the insurers, the professions and the Government. In a message of support the Department of Trade and Industry said that the panel would be "welcomed by Government and business alike".

Setback for Laker

A FLORIDA judge has reinstated an order dismissing a complaint by Laker Airways against British Airways over take-off and landing slots at London Gatwick. In November, Judge Wilkie D Ferguson Jr dismissed Laker's anti-trust action, saying the case — in which Laker claims BA bullied it out of take-off and landing spots — suffered a "procedural defect". In December, following an appeal by Laker, the judge reversed the order, but has since dismissed the case.

On Demand suspended

SHARES in On Demand Information have been suspended after its failure to report full-year results on time. The electronic publishing company, which is up for sale after issuing a series of profit warnings, said that it had missed the deadline because of uncertainty over potential off-sets and temporary borrowing facilities. It said that it did not expect to receive an offer for the company, but would probably sell its divisions separately. The shares — 45p last year — were suspended at 6½p.

Ultra secures MoD deal

ULTRA ELECTRONICS, the aerospace and defence electronics group, has been awarded a £32 million, five-year contract with the Ministry of Defence to supply submarine detection devices, known as HIDAR (High Instantaneous Dynamic Range) sonobuoys. Most of the work will be carried out by Ultra's plant at Greenford, Middlesex. Dr Julian Blough, chief executive, said the deal would secure production until 2003. The shares rose 1½p to 36½p.

Misys takes a charge

MISYS, the computer software company, will take a £38 million exceptional goodwill charge against the disposal of Misys Computer Services and Misys Integrated Solutions. It was announced yesterday. The businesses have been sold to a management team backed by Granville Private Equity Managers for a cash consideration of £10 million. Aggregate pre-tax profits were £2.2 million on revenues of £27.1 million in the year to the end of May.

Peter Black advances

PETER BLACK HOLDINGS, the toiletries, cosmetics and footwear company that is a significant supplier to Marks & Spencer, lifted profits 24.3 per cent to £11.3 million before tax and exceptional items in the half-year to November 29. The profits rose from £9.1 million in the first half of the previous year. Earnings increased to 12.8p a share from 11.32p, while the interim dividend lifted to 1.75p a share from 1.52p. The shares jumped 1p to 49½p.

Allied buys restaurants

ALLIED LEISURE is spending £5.05 million for a total of 14 Burger King restaurants in the East Midlands and Yorkshire in two separate deals. The units are being acquired from the receivers of two Burger King franchisees that collapsed into receivership last year — Genesis Fast Food and J&H Kyrris Partnership. Allied, which in October acquired six units from the receivers of J&H Kyrris, now has 27 Burger King outlets.

Beale in share split

BEALE, the Bournemouth department store group, raised pre-tax profits from £4 million to £4.3 million in the year to November 1 on sales up from £35.6 million to £62.4 million. Earnings rose from 28.8p to 29.1p and the total dividend for the year rises from 8.30p to 9.50p. The shares remained unchanged at 32½p although there is to be a two-for-one share split to improve liquidity. Turnover in the nine weeks to January 3 was up 7.8 per cent.

Asian blow to exports raises fear of recession

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND SUSAN EMMETT

THE Asian economic crisis has begun to hit British exports, raising fears that the manufacturing sector could be on the verge of recession.

The Purchasing Managers Index for January showed manufacturing export growth declining sharply from 52.1 to 48.6 — a level that suggests there has been a net fall in exports during the month.

House prices also showed only modest growth in January and the annual rate of M0, the measure of narrow money supply, was static — leaving the City convinced that rates will remain on hold after the Monetary Policy Committee meeting which ends on Thursday.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said the fall in export orders sug-

gested the Asian crisis was adding to the toll already exacted of British exporters by the high level of the pound.

Overall growth in the manufacturing sector dipped to its lowest level since last August. The new orders index also dropped, suggesting that growth is likely to slow further in coming months.

Andrew Cates, UK economist at UBS, described the data as showing the sector is facing "near-recessionary conditions" and said it is highly unlikely the Bank will raise rates this week. The Shadow Monetary Policy Committee, which includes leading economists Patrick Minford and Peter Warburton, also called for rates to remain on hold in its latest report, although it said the interest rate decision is "finely balanced".

Pressure on generators to sell coal plants

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY generators may be forced to sell coal-fired power stations to mining companies to stimulate the market for coal, the Government signalled yesterday.

John Battle, Energy Minister, said he had been disappointed in the response of National Power and PowerGen to selling coal power stations that they no longer want. He said that there had been suggestions that regulation could be toughened on the sale of coal stations and to regulate third-party access to generating plant.

His comments come as the two largest power generators are about to close some units in coal-fired stations and as the Government is reviewing coal's future. The coal industry has just four months before the end of emergency contracts with the generators to shore up the industry. After that, if no new markets are established, eight pits and 5,000 jobs are at risk.

Mr Battle raised the prospect of Britain exporting electricity through the interconnector with France at some time of day. At present, the interconnector is a one-way street, with France exporting cheap nuclear electricity to Britain, which, the coal industry says, cuts out the need for seven million tonnes of coal a year.

The Halifax housing index showed prices rising 0.6 per cent in January after a 0.2 per cent drop in December, leaving price levels close to the peak of 1989. On an annual basis, house price inflation rose to 5.3 per cent from 4.3 per cent the previous month.

The latest figures confirm Halifax's earlier predictions of moderate growth in the housing market with annual house price inflation falling to about 5 per cent after a string of interest rate rises and expected slower growth in real incomes this year. A spokesman for the Halifax said: "The figures confirm that it's neither boom nor bust and that the housing market is improving steadily but gradually. They paint a reasonably stable picture which is quite healthy."

The annual growth rate of M0 was flat in January at 6.9 per cent, although the monthly rate increased by 0.8 per cent. Economists said the data is still being distorted by the introduction of the new 50p piece but hinted at only a modest rebound in retail sales growth in January.



Gordon Edington surveys the second phase of BAA Lynton's development at Heathrow.

BAA plans special offers to lift sales

By CARL MORTISHED

BAA is targeting domestic and US passengers with promotions in an attempt to boost flagging retail sales growth.

The airports group raised pre-tax profit by 4.5 per cent to £415 million in the nine months to December. Adjusting for the replating of traffic income, the growth was 9.5 per cent. But retail spending per passenger suffered almost no growth in the period because of the strength of the pound.

While traffic grew 7 per cent during the period, retail spend per passenger was up just 0.3 per cent. Overall, revenue from BAA's shops was up 7.3 per cent to £354 million.

The group, where Gordon Edington is chairman of the unregulated property business, BAA Lynton, said it was doing selective promotions to tempt UK departing passengers to spend more. A BAA spokesman said: "We are not trying to fight a losing battle with Asians strapped for cash. We are targeting UK or dollar-denominated passengers."

BAA said that DFI, the American duty-free business acquired last year, was performing largely as expected. Tighter regulation resulted in slower growth in air traffic charges which rose only 4.2 per cent to £400 million. Property income was up 8 per cent to £181 million and international activities grew 128 per cent to £15 million. Earnings per share, adjusted for the windfall tax and replating of revenues, were up 12.5 per cent to 31.6p.

Tempus, page 30

Ten-year call for Hamanaka

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

JAPANESE prosecutors yesterday demanded a ten-year prison term for Yasuo Hamanaka, the rogue trader accused of illicit deals that cost Sumitomo Corporation £1.55 billion.

Summing up its case, the prosecution said that Mr Hamanaka, Sumitomo's former chief copper trader, engaged in an "extremely vicious crime" to cover up losses from

unauthorised transactions on the London Metal Exchange.

Mr Hamanaka, 50, admitted charges of fraud and forgery of documents at the start of his trial, a year ago. Yesterday he listened impassively as the prosecution described him as "a specialist in criminal copper dealing".

The Tokyo District Court was yesterday told that for more than ten years Mr

Hamanaka used complex fraud and forgery methods to hide "unprecedented" losses from his employer while reaping about ¥330 million (£6 million) in personal gains from unlawful trades.

During the trial, prosecutors presented evidence that Mr Hamanaka withdrew \$770 million (£470 million) from Sumitomo's Hong Kong subsidiary in October and

November 1994 to cover up the losses.

In calling for a ten-year sentence, prosecutors said that Mr Hamanaka, once nicknamed "Mr Five Per Cent" when rumoured to control that much of the world's copper market, had not assisted investigators fully.

Mr Hamanaka is due in court again on February 25, when his counsel is expected to put concluding arguments.

Whittard raises dividend

WHITTARD of Chelsea, the tea and coffee retailer, raised pre-tax profits from £550,000 to £639,000 before exceptional items of £206,000 on sales up from £11.6 million to £14.1 million (George Sivel writes).

Earnings rose from 2.2p to 2.5p before exceptional items and the half-year dividend rose 15 per cent to 1.15p. Exceptional costs of £140,000 arose from the move to the main Stock Exchange list and the trial of a new venture cost £66,000. Will Hobhouse, managing director, said: "Our UK store expansion progresses to plan with 16 sites opened since May 1997. Since Christmas sales showed satisfactory like for like and overall growth."



Tea party: Belinda Collinge, buying director at Whittard

FSA cuts mis-selling calculation rates

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Financial Services Authority, the City regulator, has announced a 0.5 per cent cut in the quarterly investment rates of return used in calculating the losses of victims in the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal.

Up to 1.5 million people were wrongly advised by life insurance salesmen and financial advisers to transfer or opt out of company pension schemes in favour of more expensive private pensions which, in many cases, have left them with poorer returns.

One use of the rates is where insurance companies are unable to reinstate people in company schemes. By using the FSA investment returns they can calculate how much they should top up a personal pension to make it comparable to the employer's scheme.

The FSA said rates had been reduced from October's levels. The new rates now range from 6.8 per cent for victims with less than one year to retirement, to 8 per cent for victims with more than 25 years to retirement.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.48	Malta	2.50
Austria S	21.97	Netherlands Gld	20.21
Belgium F	34.78	New Zealand \$	3.552
Canada \$	2.497	Norway Kr	2.32
Cyprus Cyp£	0.918	Portugal Esc	17.03
Denmark Kr	11.82	Spain Ptas	16.77
France F	11.82	Sweden Kr	264.29
Germany M	2.30	Switzerland F	14.01
Greece D	10.45	USA \$	2.52
Hong Kong \$	7.82	Turkey Lira	365.47
Iceland	131	USA \$	1.742
Ireland P	1.24	Notes only as supplied by Barclays PLC. Different rates apply to bank cheques. Rates as at close of 31st January.	
Israel Sh	0.25		
Italy Lira	2091		
Japan Yen	222.25		

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Beckett must back UK worldbeater



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Sean Lance must rank as potentially the most expensive executive on earth. Amid the euphoria over the glorious coming together of Glaxo-Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham, the most startling revelation has surely been that the deal was shelved a year ago because of a failure to find a suitable job for Mr Lance, then the chief executive of Glaxo.

So a merger which is now being portrayed as the perfect opportunity to create a world beating company was to be denied to shareholders because of one man's career prospects. With estimated savings of £1 billion a year on offer, the two companies might have clubbed together to fund a dose of vocational guidance and a private headhunter for Mr Lance rather than abandon their merger talks.

Yet it was not long later that Mr Lance was ushered out of Glaxo-Wellcome to enable the immensely capable Sir Richard Sykes to assume full control. Were the merger talks recommenced at that stage? No, it took the prospect of SB merging with American Home Products to encourage Sir Richard to pick up the telephone and renew the proposal.

Put this way, the grand strategy does not look quite so grand even if the deal itself is, undeniably, a winner. Was Jan Leschly only bluffing when he said that AHP was the perfect partner, a

view which he had come to after AHP had put itself in play. Buying something because it's available is a dangerous ploy and AHP is not without its problems. The deal had overtones of BT's attempted purchase of MCI, a move motivated by the need to do a deal, any deal.

Thanks to the generosity of WorldCom, BT emerged with only its reputation, not its finances, damaged but SB could not have been guaranteed a similar saviour.

But Sir Richard has stepped into that role. The stock market's reaction is the most eloquent testimony to the fact that these two companies together could be so much more than they are individually. Adding £23 billion to their combined market capitalisation in a day's trading is indicating that the market believes that the benefits will go far beyond the initial savings.

The deal creates the world's biggest pharmaceutical company, and it's British. In so doing, it raises competition issues which have already spurred the EU's Karol van Miert into action. His involvement means that, if she wishes, Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, can avoid the

nasty business of ruling on whether the deal should go through.

But business in the UK would appreciate a clear statement from Mrs B on where she stands on major mergers which, inevitably, cost jobs. Brussels will want to hear the UK authorities' view of the deal and resounding approval would send the right signals both to Commissioner van Miert and to the business community.

A Rank outsider's inside track

Sir Denys Henderson's determination to stand by his man could hardly be bettered by Tommy Wynette but it has caused some puzzlement among investors. John Garrett has not been alone in wondering why Andrew Teare rather than himself won the chief executive's role at Rank.

But while the boss of English China Clays might not have seemed the most obvious choice to take over the running of a leading leisure group, Mr Teare brought almost unreserved, and highly relevant, experience to the role. It is a little known fact that Andrew Teare had a spell as chief executive of Megamicro plc. As it happens, his chairman at Megamicro was Sir Denys. Apparently, they got on famously and Megamicro prospered under the guidance of the wily former chairman of ICI and the permanently beaming Teare.

When the time came for Sir Denys to seek out a successor for Mike Gifford at Rank, he naturally pondered the possibilities of resurrecting the winning double act.

The rest, as they say, is a dismal share price performance and some very disgruntled shareholders. Where, you may ask, is the magic chemistry that made Megamicro such a hit?

That question would be better addressed to Jeffrey Archer than the unimaginative analysts in the City, for Megamicro exists only in fairy tales. It is a virtual company, dreamed up by the headhunting firm of Spencer Stewart to educate would-be directors in carrying out their roles. When it was first launched upon a gathering of ambitious boardroom fodder, the top team consisted of Sir Denys and Andrew Teare and, by all accounts, a very good team they made — for two days in wonderland.

Two years together in the harsh reality has proved all together more testing. Teare has made some questionable decisions, including paying overgenerously for a business called Tom Cobbleigh. He is putting huge faith in the prospects for Hard Rock when other concept cafes are looking unashamedly anorexic. The latest leap into basketball could be a slam dunk

success but only in fantasy land would it count as a cert.

Real life at Rank has been rather less fun than running Megamicro but Sir Denys has backed Teare against his internal rival. A year from now it will be clear whether he made the right choice. In April, Megamicro launches once more but at real-life Rank there will be no second chance.

There are incentives ... and incentives

As it sloughed off its investment banking ambitions last year, National Westminster declared itself intent on retaining a powerful presence in corporate finance. After all, it had paid a premium price to buy the entrepreneurial team of Hambro Magan just a couple of years earlier.

Since then, and in a climate of furious deal-doing, NatWest has been what one might politely term low profile on the corporate finance scene. But now the bank has come up with a wheeze to ensure it does not merely have clever chaps on the payroll but they do a few big deals as well: it is going to give them the profits, but a chunky proportion: rumours suggest as much as half. These corporate financiers need motivating, and beating the competition with a mandate is apparently not enough. When supermodel Linda Evangelista remarked that she would not get out of bed for less than \$10,000 a day, George Magan knew exactly what she meant.

But the problems with deals such as this is that they set precedents. If the corporate finance team need a hefty slice of the profits to encourage them into action, why should the bond dealers be content with a mere salary-related bonus? Why should a cashier bother counting notes if it's not on the basis of one for the bank, one for him?

Time to forget that ludicrously old-fashioned idea that employees labour for the benefit of shareholders who actually own the business.

Transport policy

JAGUAR has been tempted to build its new small car in Britain by an old fashioned state bribe. If you do not rely on an extra 500 jobs later, it will cost about £15,000 each to "preserve" 2,900 jobs at Halewood, Sounds expensive, but on official estimates the Welfare to Work programme would cost about the same per job. And who believes that will create 250,000 real jobs? Better a traditional cheque in a plain envelope than a self-righteous utility levy.

CU in talks to buy German life insurer for £191m

BY MARIANNE CORPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COMMERCIAL UNION said yesterday that it had started exclusive negotiations to buy Berlinische Lebensversicherung, the German life insurer, from its main shareholders, Munich Re and Allianz.

Shares in the UK composite fell 22p before recovering to end the day 11p down at 979p, although analysts said this was because of profit-taking rather than disappointment over the deal. They said that although the price of about DM570 million (£191 million) was "on the high side" the acquisition would make strategic sense for CU which is diversifying into Europe.

Munich Re holds 64.6 per cent of Berlinische's shares and Allianz holds 30 per cent. The remaining 5.4 per cent will be the subject of an offer when the talks have been completed. The proposed acquisition will give CU entry into the German life market which is the third largest in Europe but notoriously difficult for foreigners to sell products in.

In 1997 Berlinische had life premium income of about DM830 million. It ranked in the top 30 of German life

insurers in 1996 with a market share of about 1 per cent. The company has recently carried out a restructuring of its management and operations.

Peter Foster, CU finance director, said: "Our strategy is to focus on life business and European expansion. The prospects for the German life market are good."

Analysts questioned the wisdom of issuing shares, rather than using cash, to fund the deal, and said CU had been required to pay a premium for the insurer because the insurance market was becoming increasingly competitive and good companies were expensive. The acquisition is expected to be completed in the first half of this year.



Michael Sherley-Dale, at one of his London properties, is heading for market

Flotation for property firm started 'on the side'

BY JON ASHWORTH

CITY NORTH, a London residential letting company started "on the side" by a City stockbroker, is coming to the market via a placing aimed at raising up to £10 million.

Michael Sherley-Dale, 44, who followed banks during 15 years with UBS and NatWest Securities, will use the proceeds to cut borrowings, and clear the way for further acquisitions. He began dabbling in property in 1979, and later built a thriving business, watching City screens in the mornings and dealing with his private property matters in the afternoon.

City North is eschewing the AIM route in favour of a full stock market listing. The proposed non-executive chairman is John Cobb, former partner in charge of private clients at Sheppards & Chase and founder chairman of the Association of Private Client Investment Managers & Stockbrokers. Other non-executive directors include Trevor Hennings, a former director of Scottish & Newcastle.

Four City North companies were formed in the late 1980s under the Business Expansion Scheme (BES), which encouraged investment in residential letting. About 1,700 BES shareholders must first approve a scheme of arrangement to amalgamate the companies. If all goes to plan, flotation will follow in May. The issue is sponsored by NatWest Securities. BDO Stoy Hayward is the reporting accountant.

JKX chief leaves as doubts rise on alliance

BY JON ASHWORTH

Bob McCrackin, chief executive of JKX Oil & Gas, has abruptly left the company, as its uneasy alliance with the Ukrainian Government looks set to deteriorate. His departure comes only months after he supported a £54 million takeover bid by Ramco Energy, which was rejected by shareholders when Ukrzagprom, a Ukrainian state-owned oil company, made a higher offer.

The move, which resulted in Ramco dropping its bid and Ukrzagprom buying a 10 per cent stake in JKX, was believed to be a strategy by the Ukrainian Government to boost confidence in the area.

Mr McCrackin will be temporarily replaced by Paul Davies, one of JKX's founders, who opposed the Ramco Energy bid on the grounds that it was speculative. Dr Davies said Mr McCrackin had suffered "a pretty tough year" and that the company needed someone with more experience with smaller companies.

However, JKX's relationship with the Ukrainian Government looked to be in crisis last night, when the company said profits would be hit by late payments from Ukrainian state-owned companies. JKX shares fell 6 1/2 p to 38 1/2 p.

Dr Davies admitted that Ukrzagprom's shareholding in JKX had failed to improve matters, and made a thinly disguised attack on the Ukrainian Government. "To date, payments have been received for approximately only one fifth of the gas delivered under these state contracts," he said.

GUS pays £70m for France's top cheque processor

BY FRASER NELSON

GREAT Universal Stores has added another piece to its fast-growing high street credit division with the £70 million acquisition of SGZ, the largest cheque processing company in France.

The deal, funded from GUS's £800 million cash pile, includes a five-year exclusive contract to process every cheque and credit card transaction used by Société Générale, the former owner of SGZ.

The SGZ company will be integrated into GUS's £15 billion Experian division, adding 1,600 staff to the existing workforce of 6,000. It will be merged with Corec, Experian's existing French company, and the deal is expected to be immediately earnings enhancing.

John Peace, chief executive of Experian, would not comment on City expectations of heavy job cuts. He said: "Obviously, we now have two companies in the same area so we will be looking at how we can cut costs." He added that Experian would now be able to offer its consumer credit processing services to SGZ's 30 institutional clients.

Shares in GUS, of which Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale is executive chairman, slipped 2p to 734p yesterday, although analysts generally approved of the deal and agreed that it will lift group profits from the start.

SGZ, which was set up by Société Générale in 1970, commands 60 per cent of the French cheque processing market and has a similar grip on France's debt card market. It employs 1,600 people and last year made an operating profit of £5 million on sales of £85 million.

The company now hopes to capitalise on a predicted boom in the French credit card market. Around 53 million cards are in issue in France, compared with 85 million in the UK.



Wolfson: credit expansion

Renewed interest in Energy

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH round of interest in The Energy Group has been sparked after Nomura International, the European division of the Japanese bank, confirmed that it would split the business if it wins a three-way bid battle.

Lehman Brothers, the US investment bank, has been tipped as a potential buyer for the US coal division of the company which also owns Eastern Group, the UK electricity generator and distributor. Nomura, which would try to buy Energy through its Principal Finance Group, wants to split the businesses,

which were lumped together by Hanson when it demerged the company last year.

Texas Utilities is also believed to have discussed selling Peabody Coal to Lehman Brothers if it buys Energy.

Pacificorp, the US utility which was the first to bid for Energy, with a £3.6 billion agreed offer, is expected to

rebid soon. Pacificorp is waiting for regulatory approval in the US for the deal which last year was approved by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Last week Mercury Asset Management increased its stake in Energy to 9.24 per cent. The group now owns a £360 million holding.

British Telecom yesterday said that it is to spend £300 million modernising its telephone network to support the rapid growth of Internet and data communications services.

BT upgrade

BY JON ASHWORTH

Roadchef, the motorway service station group, is up for sale and expects to send financial details to potential buyers in the next two weeks. The sale is likely to raise about £150 million.

Roadchef offer

BY JON ASHWORTH

GOOD NEWS appeared to be on the horizon at last for shareholders of La Senza, the embattled lingerie group, as the company confirmed it was in talks that might lead to it being taken over (Kathy Lipari writes).

The retailer's share price soared 50 per cent, closing 8 1/2 p higher at 25 1/2 p after the announcement. The Canadian-controlled group touched 160p soon after floating on AIM two years ago but has fallen back after delays in store openings and failures to meet profit forecasts.

Bid news lifts Gibbs Mew

SHARES in Gibbs Mew, the pub operator based in Salisbury, rose 52p to 308 1/2 p yesterday after the company announced it was in takeover talks with an unnamed suitor (Dominic Walsh writes). The board issued a statement that it was "in discussions with a third party which may or may not lead to an offer being received for the entire share capital of the company". The company is now capitalised at about £42 million.

Speculation over the identity of the suitor, immediately centred on Enterprise Inns and Ushers of Trowbridge, rival pub operators, although Ushers discounted any possibility of a bid only last month. A spokeswoman for Enterprise issued a firm "no comment".

Last year Gibbs Mew withdrew from brewing after almost 100 years to concentrate on its pub and drinks distribution businesses. Its Bishop's Tipton ale is now brewed under contract by Ushers. It has 285 tenanted pubs and 25 managed houses.

La Senza confirms talks

La Senza refused to say who the bidder might be but speculation centred on Ann Summers, the intimate goods operation run by Jacqueline Gold. Despite promising to make inroads into the £1.2 billion ladies underwear market dominated by Marks & Spencer, La Senza has never made a profit.

La Senza has 52 stores in the UK but had originally planned to open 174 outlets by 2001 before running into difficulties and abandoning its aggressive expansion programme.

IT CAN EAT A WHOLE CAN OF WORMS.

Wherever PTTMAA

REXEL

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Pharmaceuticals lead shares to record close

SHARE prices surged to a record level on the London stock market after six days of consecutive gains...

Mergers and acquisitions gripped the Square Mile as the full impact of Friday's late-breaking news that SmithKline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome were in merger talks began to sink in...

Needless to say the pharmaceutical sector dominated proceedings with analysts attempting to put a final value on the deal for shareholders...

Share prices generally were bolstered by a subdued purchasing managers survey, ahead of this week's meeting of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee...

The banks were also the subject of further merger speculation. Abbey National rose 20p to £12.50, Barclays 41p to £18.86, Lloyds TSB 24p to 88p...



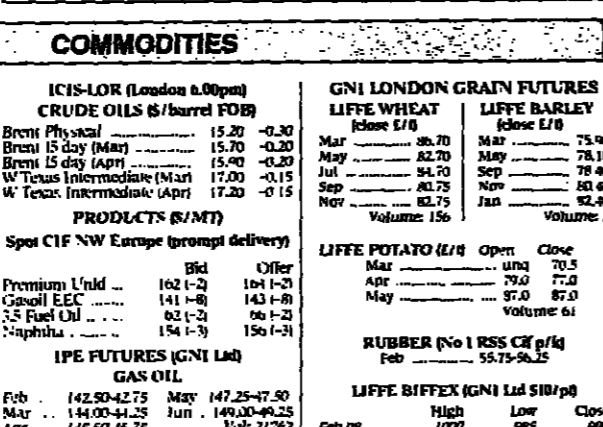
Ernie Els will endorse Pickquick's ComPutter product

a new range of Airbus Industrie long-haul airliners, Rolls Royce, which supplies the engines, rose 6 1/2p to 213 1/2p. Rank Group jumped 1 1/2p to 31 1/2p on news of a management shake-up...

There was plenty for shareholders to cheer at Gibbs Mew, up 5 1/2p to 308 1/2p. The Salisbury-based brewer says it is in talks which may lead to a bid. At these levels, the group is capitalised at £43 million.

Richardson Group made a welcome return to the market after a placing by Peel Hunt, the broker, at 50p. The group, which makes semi-conductors, enjoyed a useful premium, ending the session at 57 1/2p on turnover of more than 200,000 shares.

Oliver-listed Pickquick was steady at 207 1/2p. The company has signed up golfer US Open champion, Ernie Els, to endorse its ComPutter electronic putting gear...



Commercial Union touched 960p before reducing the fall to 7 1/2p at 982 1/2p. Brokers insisted the fall had nothing to do with its decision to acquire Berlinische Lebensversicherung...

By contrast General Accident fell 6 1/2p to £12.59, GRE 1p to 397p and Royal Sun Alliance 1 1/2p to 706p.

Salomon Smith Barney, the broker, says the composite insurers have "significantly outperformed the rest of the market since the start of 1997. But it warns that underwriting remains competitive and severe winter weather losses have led to earnings downgrades...

The proposed PPP Healthcare acquisition will create value and has prompted SSB to upgrade the target price to 425p.

report suggests the Ann Summers sex shop chain may want to bid. Hanover International rose 5 1/2p to 130 1/2p on the news that Montano Fund Managers has bought an extra one million shares...

A profits warning left AIM-listed Channel Island Communications (Televison) nursing a loss of 26p at 73 1/2p. The independent franchise operator says that results for the year to March 31 will fall short of City expectations...

A useful increase in interim profits from £58,000 to £96,000 lifted Media Business Group 4p to 86 1/2p. Granville, the broker, has raised its forecast for the year from £1.8 million to £2 million.

Shares of On Demand Information were suspended at 6 1/2p after the group failed to meet a Stock Exchange deadline for reporting full-year results.

NEW YORK: Shares moved sharply higher on news of the SmithKline Beecham merger talks with Glaxo Wellcome, the rebound in Asia, the dampening of the Clinton sex scandal and continued diplomacy in the Iraq standoff with the UN...

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Abbey Nat Dublin II, Diageo B, General Inds, Longmead (135), etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Derwent Vly n/p (S20) 41 1/2.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes including Johnson Fry, Hutch Wharm, Smithline, etc.

FALLS

Table of falls including REA, Rubicon, Rubicon/JD, etc.

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

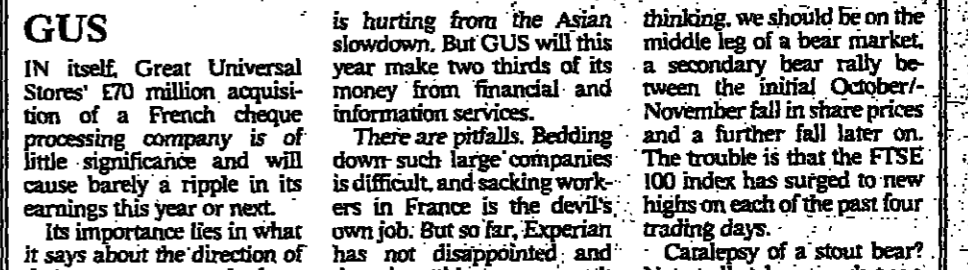
Breaking down walls

CU has long been Europhilic — three and a half years ago it made the biggest investment in France of any UK company, paying £1.4 billion for Groupe Victoria. Almost half of CU's life profits come from the Netherlands...

Such premiums do not last and corporate treasurers will be desperate for an excuse to raise cash by issuing shares. In theory, an issue at a premium is undilutive, but in practice, investors should shun bull market rights issues.

Property SHARE PRICES in the property sector are now, on average, 20 to 25 per cent ahead of market estimates of net asset value. British Land, at 75p, is some 30 per cent higher than the consensus NAV figure...

RIGHTS AT ISSUE



GUS

IN itself, Great Universal Stores' £70 million acquisition of a French cheque processing company is of little significance and will cause barely a ripple in its earnings this year or next.

It says about the direction of the company — and about what Lord Wolfson intends to do with the £730 million still sloshing about in the bank. The answer seems to be a continual shift towards investment in intellectual property and away from its core agency mail order business.

Markets

BEARS of London shares are having a bad time. There is much to be said for hibernating at this time of year. Robin Griffiths' chart analyst at HSPC James Capel, has taken the alternative course, technically known as the "brass neck" strategy.

STERLING

Table of sterling rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, etc.

OTHER CURRENCIES

Table of other currencies including Argentine dollar, Australian dollar, Canadian dollar, etc.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various sectors including Land Sec, Land & Gen, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies including Dollar, French Franc, Swiss Franc, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion Open, Low, High, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various periods including 1 month, 3 month, 6 month, etc.

COMMODITIES

LIFE

Table of life insurance rates for various policies including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, etc.

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

Table of meat and livestock prices including Average (market price) at representative market on January 29, etc.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life options for various companies including Axa, BNP, etc.

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)

Table of crude oil prices for various grades including Brent, Brent 15 day, etc.

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

Table of product prices including Spot CIF NW Europe (bromide delivery), etc.

LIQUID METALS

Table of liquid metal prices including LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, etc.

LIFE

Table of life insurance rates for various policies including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, etc.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various currencies including Base Rate, Discount Rate, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies including Dollar, French Franc, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

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Ex-ministers join City's welfare queues

Politicians have access to their own peculiar Welfare to Work scheme. Out-of-work ministers soften the blow by signing up for a role on one of the plethora of quangos or find a comfortable seat on the board of a public company. Although it is questionable whether these directorships can be defined as economically useful, at least politicians can maintain the illusion that they are still contributing something to the good of the country.

The City takes a charitable view of semi-redundant parliamentarians. The Tory election defeat has created a large pool of underemployed former ministers, scrambling for posts that will keep them in the style to which they had grown accustomed. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, has led the way grabbing four jobs at Daiwa, BAT, UniChem and Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust. Only last week, Tim Eggar, former Energy Minister, was appointed chief executive of Monument Oil & Gas.

Few politicians, however, follow Mr Eggar's lead and move into serious business positions. Just as most blue chips have halted political donations, companies seem to be increasingly wary of the political fallout from parachuting former ministers into senior board posts. Many rightly question whether having a politician on the board adds any value at all.

The standard reply has always been that a minister on the board brings a wealth of contacts. But in these days of the Nolan Report and Hampel, a nod and a wink to an old political comrade is no longer regarded as above-board behaviour. Even the politicians themselves appear sceptical about whether, post-office, they possess much influence. Sir John Nott, a former Trade and

Defence Minister in the Thatcher government, who is now chairman of Hillsdown Holdings, says that civil servants are wary of dealing with their former political masters.

Abroad, where politicians are freed from the tough UK scrutiny guidelines, contacts can still count. Few seriously believe that Douglas Hurd's arrival on the board of NatWest had no connection with the Bank's decision to offer its services to the Serbian Government. But there are not many politicians who can claim to have developed substantial networks beyond Westminster.

Sadly, there appear few other

specific skills that politicians can bring directly to business. The more successful ones have a potentially useful flair for self-publicity. There are also certain parallels between running a large government department and a business. Lord Younger, the former Defence Secretary who is now chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, points out that the larger departments resemble leading businesses and says he was "better equipped for business" after his period in government. But ministers rely heavily upon civil servants for core ministerial business decisions while politics requires a very different strategic vision

from a company's need to improve shareholder returns. The demands of modern politics leave little time for even backbench MPs to hone their business skills. This process of professionalisation, coupled with the greater demands placed on high-ranking company directors, is increasing the gulf between the business and political worlds. The trend towards youthful politicians means that MPs normally have little other experience to draw upon when their political career draws towards a close. Sir Geoffrey Pattie, marketing director at GEC, says that when he was in the DTI only one out of the five ministers had business experience. Francis Maude joined Morgan Stanley in 1992, having spent years making "serious decisions affecting business without the first idea of what business is really about". None of this would matter if

politicians were prepared to go into the City to learn a new career. But lengthy political service is addictive. Sir John says a stream of politicians approached him for advice on making a career in business after the Conservative's election defeat. The trouble was that "most of them clearly wished to be politicians first".

It is not surprising to find that in this climate, the City prefers to offer positions that flatter the vanity of politicians rather than develop their skills. A name on the board can still be useful for helping to charm vital clients, and hardly breaks the bank.

The danger is, however, that politicians are now locked into a cycle where they are viewed as little more than glorified PRs. For the business world, providing an ex-minister with a director's post increasingly looks less like work than welfare.

ways of bringing to life those cliché-ridden mission statements that preface annual reports. Even so there has to be a return. Linking business with the forces of law and order should be no exception to this.

Crime Concern has long recognised the value of linking business with crime prevention. It offers different levels of corporate membership costing between £5,000 and £15,000. Director Suzy Mason says her organisation, while campaigning for crime prevention, can also give companies an opportunity to reach new business.

"Businesses expect a lot back. They are looking at markets they had previously been unable to reach such as local authorities and schools." Last week chemical company BASF sponsored a crime prevention seminar in Stockport. The seminar presented BASF with the perfect opportunity for marketing itself and for exhibiting socially responsible credentials. "People had heard of us but didn't really know much about the company. As a result of the seminar their knowledge of us has risen considerably," says PR manager Julie Whittaker.

There is a school of thought that believes a good corporate citizen of today is the successful commercial organisation of tomorrow.

Even so, what benefits are to be gained from this type of marketing activity? For the sponsor of the Fire Brigade it could be high-profile branding, greater awareness in a heavily populated region, media coverage, a link with a trusted organisation. Can it still achieve similar results for less money? Facilities management group Care Services recently bought two cars for the North Yorkshire Constabulary for £30,000.

According to Victoria Keogh, sales and marketing manager, the sponsorship has not generated any business leads, nor apparently has it raised awareness of the company. She is not displeased, however, since in fashionably altruistic terms, it was never meant to stimulate sales but instead was a goodwill gift to the host community. "The number of people who will see it will be small and those who could afford our services would be very few," says Keogh.

MARKETING

Community sponsorship gains ground

Terry Palfrey runs Queen's Motors, a breakdown recovery service in south-east London. It sponsors a car that is used for community policing. The £3,000 cost could have bought regular spots in the local newspaper but instead this method was chosen in order to cement the company's relationship with the police and the local community in a striking way. "It's simple," muses Palfrey, "in our business the more you raise your profile the more business you get."

On a larger scale other major organisations are investigating community-based marketing initiatives. The Government is embarking on a campaign to woo business investment for what will be the biggest sponsorship deal of a public service: the London Fire Brigade. The Central Office of Information is talking to insurance, telecoms and public utility companies about taking up the £1 million sponsorship which could see the capital's 113 stations, 200 engines and 6,000 staff carrying corporate branding.

As sponsorship deals go, it is a high-profile one. As government agencies seek new ways of plugging public expenditure gaps with private investor's cash, the number of sponsorship opportunities for companies is expected to grow.

The police forces of England and Wales can raise 1 per cent of their budget from the private sector — roughly £70 million. The COI has raised £4.5 million from business on behalf of 25 government departments and agencies, and is expecting this amount to rise. Business in the Community, the organisation which brings the two sides together, claims recruitment of new members has doubled since last May's election.

Altruism might be back in fashion but companies still expect a return on their investment. Sue Adkins, a director of BITC, agrees: "Yes, a business is about making profits but it is also about ensuring a good corps of intelligent and happy people working for it."

As is so often the case with marketing, efficiency is difficult to gauge. Community sponsorship has as much to do with raising the company's profile in the long term as it does with generating sales short term. Companies are always looking at new

Unspoken truth about the euro is many fewer jobs, not more

Businessmen fear the early years of EMU, reports Janet Bush at Davos world economic forum

Europe appears to be in a state of terminal depression. Despite economic recovery, despite their cherished single currency project being certain to go ahead on schedule, despite even that they no longer have to feel inferior to the so-called Asian model, the leaders of continental Europe gathered for the World Economic Forum in Davos find themselves the unwitting players in a French farce.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's urbane Finance Minister, was squirming. On arrival in the Swiss resort, he had met an American who had told him bluntly: "You have the worst job in the world."

The talk of Davos was France's decision to press ahead with a cut in French working hours to a 35-hour week, a piece of inappropriate economic madness inexplicably being embarked upon just when the French economy — and those of its European neighbours — is facing an unprecedented competitive challenge from the Asian tigers and their dramatically devalued currencies.

While South Korea is talking about raising its work-week to 70 hours in an attempt to work its way out of crisis, France is bent on a week half as long.

At one point during a seminar entitled "What will the euro do to Europe", the chairman of Nestlé, chairing the session, directed the discussion towards the social impact of the single currency. Mr Strauss-Kahn wheeled around, evidently flustered, and asked: "Why are you looking at me? Far from using the occasion to trumpet the virtues of life after the euro, the minister found himself trying to convince a sceptical audience that the Government which has buckled to the demands of militant trade unions over the 35-hour week is the same Government which is tough enough to dismantle the highly protective French social model and

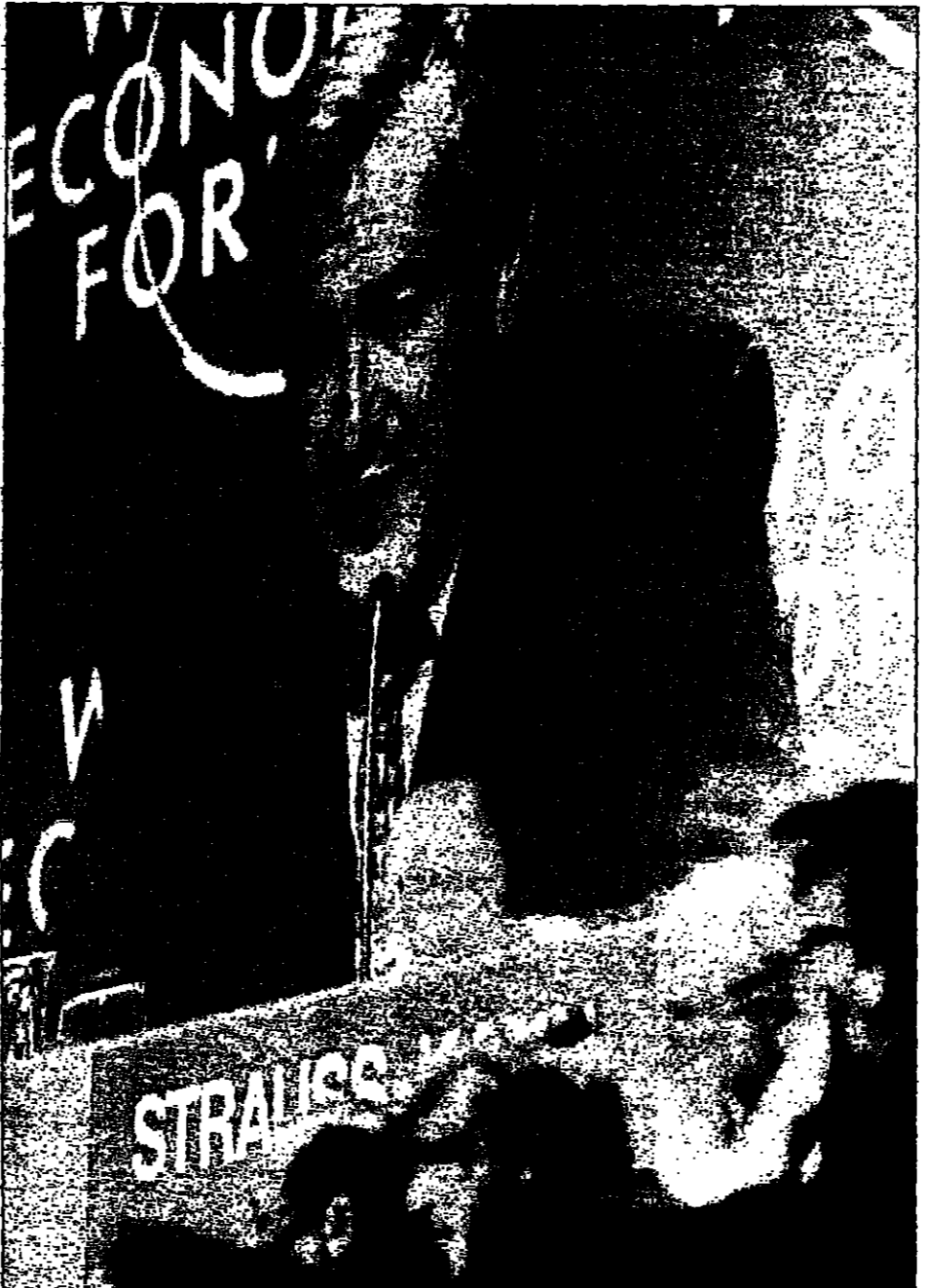
create a new, flexible labour market.

Under the weight of collective incredulity, Mr Strauss-Kahn eventually conceded that giving in to the 35-hour week was the only way the Government calculated it would be able to persuade the unions to engage in a huge wave of negotiations on every other aspect of working life and to break the deadlock which is preventing France from modernising its labour market and social welfare systems.

His answer left French businessmen thoroughly depressed. Hubert Joly, President of EDS (Electronic Data Systems) in France, and a member of an informal group of young business leaders meeting under the auspices of the World Economic Forum to discuss the implications of globalisation, said that there was broad agreement on how to tackle the problem of high unemployment — and other economic inefficiencies — in Europe but that there was a lack of political leadership to put the solutions into practice. "Our social economic system is broken and we have to accept that," he said.

A French banker attending the World Economic Forum threw his hands up in horror at his country's entrenched culture of confrontation which was preventing modernisation. "When the train drivers go on strike for early retirement, French people support them. It doesn't matter whether they will end up paying for the drivers to retire early or that they can't physically get to work because of the strike," he said.

France was inevitably in the spotlight in Davos because of the current industrial unrest. But a sense of frustration with Europe's relative backwardness pervaded discussions by businessmen from around the continent. The so-called Rheinland model, the German version of the stakeholder economy, is looked at increas-



Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's Finance Minister, speaking at Davos

ingly askance.

Werner Seifert, Chief Executive Officer of the German stock exchange pronounced a heresy by urging Germany to adopt an Anglo Saxon stock market system, recognising that using the capital markets is the quickest way of developing world class companies, capable of creating jobs. Hans Wijfers, Minister of Economic Affairs for The Netherlands, said that Europe is missing a

clear vision of how to organise its markets and what the proper role of the state should be.

Like practically every commentator on Europe, he stressed the need to reform labour markets to ensure that growth is accompanied by job creation. Like many others, his hope was that the coming of the single currency will force politicians to embrace flexibility because the price of not

doing so would be immediate and ferocious.

What was striking about Davos this year was that economic and monetary union was a minor issue except for the politicians who still invoke it as a panacea when questions about unemployment and competitiveness become too challenging. Business leaders hardly mentioned EMU, except as a threat. The great unspoken truth is that the

Free agent

ANOTHER DAY, another piece of bad news for Mike Greenlees, the hapless head of GGT, the advertising group. Having seen £80 million of business from Procter & Gamble walk out the door and the firm lose its independence after last week's bid from Omnicom, he has just learnt of another departure.

John Sharkey — one of the most respected managers in advertising — is leaving at Easter. Sharkey has enjoyed a varied and interesting career, which included being manag-

ing director of Saatchi & Saatchi, trying to sort out the mess at Blue Arrow after its purchase of Manpower and a failed attempt to take over Mirror Group Newspapers, shortly after Robert Maxwell's death.

Sharkey then formed his own agency, BST, which was last year bought out by GGT for a rumoured £3 million. As part of the deal Sharkey agreed to stay for six months and that soon runs out. He tells me that he has no plans for his future. But Sir Robert Clark is retiring soon, and David Montgomery does need a new chairman at Mirror Group.



John Sharkey tried to buy Mirror Group after Robert Maxwell died

□ ALL this speculation about what the new Glaxo Wellcome SmithKline Beecham will be called could easily be solved. Lurking in Glaxo's portfolio is the perfect name — Glaxo's good old distribution operation, British Drug Houses.

Off target

PATRICK PONSOLLE is a cunning old soul. The captain of Eurotunnel has long entertained the City with monthly updates on its traffic figures — which at each stage detailed a pathetic drift away from its 1997 target. Never admitting defeat, the company



blindly insisted that a Christmas rush would save the day — even in December, when it was sinking so far behind that its trains would have to have been laden like veal lories to get anywhere close to the target. But where are these figures? They were due three weeks ago. It seems the forecasting department is suffering from some *faillies sur le ligne*. Ponsolle is now reserving his final humiliation until February 16 — six weeks late and just in time to bury the stats under reams of financial results.

□ THERE is talk of revolt down in Nairobi where employees of the Kenyan arm of De La Rue are objecting to the banknote maker's insistence of twice daily strip searches and want

them replaced by electronic checks. "It is dehumanising and humiliating to ask adults, including expectant mothers, to strip naked at work," one of the employees told the local press. "This rule is discriminatory because it applies to Africans only." Clearly The Full Monty was not a massive hit in East Africa.

Control technique

MY SPOILSPORT of the week award goes to Emerson Electric, the US concern that has fallen foul of City instructions with a tuppence halfpenny takeover bid for Astec BSR. The Americans are trying to block the appointment of Trevor Wheatley as chairman of Tyzack Precision. Who? That's right, Emerson — latest market capitalisation £16 billion — thinks Wheatley's proposed role at Tyzack — market capitalisation £12 million — contravenes restrictive covenants put in place when Wheatley sold his Control Techniques to Emerson for £204 million in early 1995. Wheatley, who is due to succeed Sir James McKinnon at Tyzack in May, has been told by Emerson the restrictions remain in place until December. Wheatley is furious and vows to fight on.

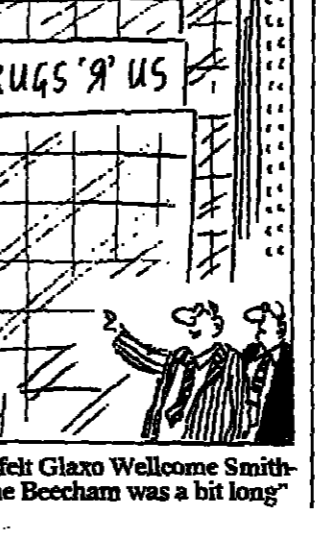
Anorak glitch

NEVER mind the millennium bug, it seems that firms are in more danger from the anoraks hired to solve the problems. A survey by Elan Comput-

ing, the specialist information technology recruiters, highlights problems that people have had with the boffins they hire. More than a third found the contractors were either drunk or sexually harrassing staff and more than a quarter had to fire contractors for "forming illicit sexual relationships within the company".

But Elan found some rather unique problems. Two companies found IT consultants asleep in the toilets, another was discovered running an escort agency during working hours and one was fired because he "smelled a bit, which became increasingly offensive to other staff".

JASON NISSE



"We felt Glaxo Wellcome SmithKline Beecham was a bit long"

I THINK I MAY HAVE BEEN SACKED.

ambiguous n. 1 person who writes the wrong word equally well with the right and left hands 2 words in a contract which have an obscure or double meaning.

constructive dismissal v. 1 a mass firing of modern architects (after monstrous carbuncle) 2 indirect dismissal.

compensation n. 1 that pleasurable feeling when the cheque arrives in the post 2 payment made by someone to cover the cost of damage or hardship which has been caused.

mediation n. 1 gathering of camera crews outside celebrity's home (after minor indiscretion) 2 attempt by a third party to make the two sides in an argument agree.

For the definitive answers to your legal questions, call Rowe & Maw and get some experts on the job.

Rowe & Maw

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Further gains for equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	% Chg	Dividend	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Asahi Breweries	120.00	+0.8	0.00	0.0	12.0
Beck & Co	110.00	+0.9	0.00	0.0	11.0
Carlsberg	100.00	+1.0	0.00	0.0	10.0
Heineken	90.00	+1.1	0.00	0.0	9.0
Kingfisher	80.00	+1.2	0.00	0.0	8.0
Orkla	70.00	+1.3	0.00	0.0	7.0
Sankey	60.00	+1.4	0.00	0.0	6.0
Stout	50.00	+1.5	0.00	0.0	5.0
Tea & Coffee	40.00	+1.6	0.00	0.0	4.0
Wolfsberg	30.00	+1.7	0.00	0.0	3.0
BANKS					
Bank of America	100.00	+0.5	0.00	0.0	10.0
Bank of India	90.00	+0.6	0.00	0.0	9.0
Bank of Japan	80.00	+0.7	0.00	0.0	8.0
Bank of Korea	70.00	+0.8	0.00	0.0	7.0
Bank of London	60.00	+0.9	0.00	0.0	6.0
Bank of Montreal	50.00	+1.0	0.00	0.0	5.0
Bank of New York	40.00	+1.1	0.00	0.0	4.0
Bank of Paris	30.00	+1.2	0.00	0.0	3.0
Bank of Singapore	20.00	+1.3	0.00	0.0	2.0
Bank of South Africa	10.00	+1.4	0.00	0.0	1.0
Bank of Taiwan	0.00	+1.5	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of Thailand	0.00	+1.6	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of Victoria	0.00	+1.7	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of West	0.00	+1.8	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of Yugoslavia	0.00	+1.9	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of Zambia	0.00	+2.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of Zimbabwe	0.00	+2.1	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the South Pacific	0.00	+2.2	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the West Indies	0.00	+2.3	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the Americas	0.00	+2.4	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the Caribbean	0.00	+2.5	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the Middle East	0.00	+2.6	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the Pacific	0.00	+2.7	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the South Sea	0.00	+2.8	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the East	0.00	+2.9	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the North	0.00	+3.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bank of the West	0.00	+3.1	0.00	0.0	0.0
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Fitting gifts for a marvel of her age

We have become perhaps a little absent-minded in celebrating our great singers, having been a little grudging even in giving freedom of the Covent Garden stage to Joan Sutherland in her later years. Better that, maybe, than the Met, where they tend to go on engaging their favourites for longer than prudence might sanction. But last week Greece did signal honour to one of its great sopranos, Jeannette Piloù. She had let it be known that she would like to sing *Mélisande* again, and a slip-up new production was mounted for her at Athens's Concert Hall.

OPERA *Pelléas et Mélisande* Athens

tation fully in the tradition of those singers already mentioned. It was an extraordinary and inspiring occasion.

Nowadays our cold-nosed managements would never think of engaging Thomas Allen as *Pelléas* in one of his great roles: he last sang it in Britain 15 years ago. But like Piloù, he sings French with special eloquence, while his sense of musical line and his colouring of vowels made him the perfect partner.

Their joint account of the scene leading to the murder was profoundly stirring and it was good, after his Beckmesser, Danilo and Morone in *Pastorale*, to see Allen completely in command of a straight heroic role again.

It may have been a risk casting a young and, let it be said, excellent French baritone, Jean-Luc Chaignaud, as Golaud, but mere dramatic verisimilitude was not the point of the evening: I hope Chaignaud will still be singing Golaud in 30 years' time.

The rest of the cast was more homely and, in charge of the large Orchestra Ton Chromaton, the conductor Miltos Logiadis allowed the score to sound more Wagnerian than was strictly necessary. Georg Rootering's production was not exactly audience-friendly (*Pelléas* has not been given in Greece before), being played in a bare box set with minimal props and little sense of location.

Uwe Belzner's decor placed an extra 12ft of forestage between singers and audience, and Rootering used an extra false stage behind that, so it is further tribute to the principals that they managed to communicate as vividly as they did, especially since the lovers were placed miles apart in both the Tower Scene and most of the final duet. Poor *Pelléas* had to mime extremes of ecstasy with *Mélisande's* hair all on his own, which he managed with remarkable tact.

Not much cop visually, then, but musically this was a visit to the past, to a grand tradition, that was enormously rewarding.

Her perfect French enunciation was instantly communicative, her interpretation duly enigmatic and other-worldly. Politically incorrect though it may be to remark upon, her glinting Mediterranean beauty was no hindrance to an interpre-

RODNEY MILNES



Veterans Jeannette Piloù and Thomas Allen

role. Maggie Teyte waited until she was 60 before first singing it in New York, and gave concert extracts in London four years later. Mary Garden, who created the part, kept it in her repertory until she was 57 and sang excerpts at an incredible 75. It would be ungentlemanly to speculate on Piloù's age, but let us say that she made her debut in Milan 40 years ago and, whichever reference book one consults, she will not see 60 again.

The marvellous thing is, not a single allowance needed to be made, no filter of nostalgia was necessary. Her beautiful silvery tone was steady as a rock throughout the range and projected effortlessly into the huge hall, especially in *Mélisande's* crucial middle register.

Her perfect French enunciation was instantly communicative, her interpretation duly enigmatic and other-worldly. Politically incorrect though it may be to remark upon, her glinting Mediterranean beauty was no hindrance to an interpre-

Clive Davis meets the self-effacing gentleman behind the obnoxious showbiz loser, Johnny Vegas

Mr Heckle and Mr Hide

Is it safe to sit opposite Johnny Vegas when he has a beer glass in his hand? And then there is that ash tray on the table... Such thoughts are bound to flit across your mind once you have seen Vegas's show, a slightly scary mixture of beer-belly belligerence and maudlin confessionals. Slagging out on the stage in his atrocious 1970s flares, he rants about his deprived childhood, before going on to his ill-fated career as a Butlin's comedian. Bullying his audience into sing-alongs, he generally behaves like a half-dangerous, half-pathetic drunk stuck in a kebab queue after closing time.

But there is no need to wear body armour today. Sipping a Guinness in a bar in Manchester, with *Blatney* Blank playing on the television in the background, Vegas is on his very best behaviour. The born loser described by Steve Coogan as "maybe the finest comic of the next generation" has been transformed into his alter ego, Michael Pennington, an unfurlingly polite 26-year-old from St Helens who is only too happy to discuss his

Johnny was something I thought I'd drop when I saw myself as a proper stand-up

early ambitions for the priesthood, and how funny Tom O'Connor was before the TV quiz shows got him.

The sensitivity lurking underneath the bluster and repressed rage is what makes his stage act so compelling. "I'm not a comedian," Johnny informs his audience at regular intervals, his finger jabbing the air. "I'm an entertainer." Although *Loaded* magazine is sponsoring his national tour, Vegas is a much more subtle persona than that might imply.

Vegas, he says, provides a form of camouflage: "I think initially Johnny was something I thought I'd drop when I was confident enough to see myself as a 'proper' stand-up," Pennington explains. "And suddenly there were more possibilities in it. I don't know if I could get up there and be so angry if I was dressed in civvies. I'd probably get hit if I was dressed in ordinary clothes and was standing there giving people stick. I suppose people think he's sad. I mean, what can you do to a man who wears the sort of clothes he does?"

Trying to work out where Pennington ends and Vegas begins is all part of the fun. Vegas's bitter talk about critics and his surreal notion of finding redemption in pottery classes are certainly based on his creator's experiences of scraping a third-class ceramics degree at Middlesex University. (Just to demonstrate his prowess with the clay, Vegas usually gives the potter's wheel a spin at the end of his show.)

Pennington has never actually worked at Butlin's, but he did go



Steve Coogan says Johnny Vegas—known to his family and friends as Michael Pennington—is "maybe the finest comic of the next generation"

there for holidays as a child. And, while he really did come home one day to find his father skinning his pet rabbit, his working-class family seems to have been warm, supportive and anything but dysfunctional. Coming from a strong religious background, he went to seminary college in Skelmersdale when he was 11, subsidised by his parish. Four terms later he realised holy orders were not for him, and he returned home to begin slipping down the academic ladder.

Pennington claims that Johnny was not a self-conscious creation. In fact, Pennington was given the nickname when he was working as a barman in St Helens, long before he thought of embarking on a full-time stand-up career. "I was always sad and cheesy anyway. I was always drinking too much and dancing on tables," he says.

Alcohol also got the better of him when he tried his hand at stand-up at college one night, but he was obviously good enough to impress a representative from the Comedy Store who was in the audience. The man gave Pennington his card, but the would-be potter never followed up the opening. After all, he had no act to speak of, only the bravado that came from drinking too much. Some time later, when he finally decided to give comedy a proper try, he moved down to London, floundered around for a while, drank too much and finally returned home.

A breakthrough beckoned in 1995 when he reached the finals of a comedy talent contest at the Edinburgh Fringe. In front of none other than Eddie Izzard, who was acting as master of ceremonies, Pennington died a death. Looking back, though, he suspects that Johnny Vegas may

have taken definitive shape there and then. "That's when Johnny developed his 'kiss-my-arse' attitude. I mean, what else could go wrong? If everyone walked out on him he'd carry on talking to himself."

The Edinburgh trip did lead to a job in Glasgow, however. As Pennington admits, he spent much of the time on a drinking binge. Back on his home territory, he took stock and started to find himself in demand in Manchester's clubs. When he returned to Edinburgh last year he enjoyed the dual distinction of winning ecstatic reviews and being described by London-based reviewers as a star who had come from nowhere.

The only danger, at the moment, perhaps, is that audiences might become too wise, too knowing. Much of the humour, after all, depends on

the genial sense of menace he generates in a room.

Not long ago, at his local club in St Helens, a couple seated near the stage took offence at his gibes. Incensed, the woman marched off with one of his shoes, flushed it under one of the ladies' lavatories and—strangely enough—handed it back to him.

There followed an angry letter from the outraged punters to the club's owners: "Johnny Vegas says he's not a comedian, he's an entertainer. I say he's neither." Fortunately for Pennington, you can't please them all.

Johnny Vegas's *Balls of Clay* tour dates include the *Pea Club, Bath*, tonight; the *Harrogate, Radwell, tomorrow*; *Junction, Cambridge*; *Thur, Arts Theatre, Belfast*; *Fri, Gardner Arts Centre, Brighton*; *Sat, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham*; *Sun, Oxford Playhouse, Mon*

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Singing in the dark In the house of bitter sweets

SOMEWHERE in Finbar's miserable digs, among the mountains of unsold chairs and cartons of tin openers, there is, says Vera, a weary rat. He waits for somebody "to bring the back of the shovel down on his head". If Vera, the returned exile at the centre of Tom Murphy's *The Wake*, has sympathy with the creature, it comes from a sense of identification.

It is eight years since the Irish stage had a new Tom Murphy play, and that time has hardly brightened the author's dark, boozy drama. If anything, *The Wake* is an even more intensely forensic investigation of despair and loneliness than Murphy has previously attempted. What is remarkable in the play is that his dissection is full of unfettered pleasures, comedy and song.

Vera, played with brutal restraint by Jane Brennan, has returned briefly to the West of Ireland from her adopted home of New York. She has come to visit her recently deceased grandmother's grave and to sort out her inheritance, a dilapidated hotel that her relatives intend to wrest from her.

THEATRE *The Wake* Abbey, Dublin

Through her honest de-bauchery, Vera attempts to make her relatives behave decently, to force them to take their eye momentarily off the pot of gold and perform the basic rituals of life and death—which in this case means to hold a carnivalesque wake.

Director Patrick Mason's most impressive achievement has been to create a balanced ensemble piece from what is, in most ways, one woman's story. This task is hugely aided by a collection of top-form performances. Pat Leavy opens the betting high as the happily despairing Mrs Connesley, a woman who uses the sound of her own laughter to ward off loneliness. Olwen

THEATRE *Grace* SW11

Fourie hardly takes a breath as Vera's conviving and finally incomprehensibly greedy sister, Mary Jane, firing out her clipped soliloquies in a hybrid language of legalese and functional caring. Townsend hurries towards drunken despair, casting off a score of steely wit, while as his partner in whiskey Herlitz cuts a more ragged, if equally entertaining, path.

Murphy's wisest decision is not to attempt to unravel this mess through dialogue, at least not directly. The characters never say quite as much as when they are drunkenly talking across each other about ancient wisdom or three-legged dogs, or when they compete in an Olympian performance contest. "We have nothing more to say to each other," Vera finally declares. And that, it seems, is why they sing.

LUKE CLANCY

THEATRE *Grace* SW11

OUT of the mouths of babes come tumbling all manner of truths. Or, if you're the David Glass Ensemble, you let your bodies do the talking. While the company's international reputation testifies that this physical Esperanto is reaching parts that would be lost in translation in text-based works, it must be acknowledged too that in Britain only a handful of enthusiasts have bothered to learn the lingo.

As the title of this new work suggests, Glass has used the Hansel and Gretel fairytale as a starting point to explore childhood and the loss of innocence that kills it. Here, baby Gretel is thrust hawling into a wicked world only to be bound up, silenced and kept in her place. Once she is allowed to let her hair down, the birthday girl playing happy

THEATRE *Grace* SW11

families with big brother and the folks. But the idyll of domestic bliss is shattered as H and G are abandoned in the forest not just out of economic necessity, but because of Dad's new wife's increasing sexual jealousy as little Gretel blossoms into womanhood.

Once in the forest the nightmare really begins, and by the time Gretel finds her way home she's seen off a vicious pair of witches and all she has left of her brother is his bottled tears. The family may be reunited, but a bond has been destroyed.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Etiquette for captive girls

I NEVER saw the other two limbs of Bob Hescott's *War and Innocence* trilogy and somehow I doubt I ever will. The third starts off with a revelation. "I found Jesus on the No 83 tram," enthuses Thora, aged 17, during the audience to contradict her. We don't, of course. But when her three equally young friends do so there is a spat of biblical proportions. Thora is dismissed as an unsophisticated lump, *Inogin* and *Marina* are branded as pretentious Jews, and upper-class Cassandra reveals herself as a craven racist.

By the third time you hear a woman shriek, like a strangled cat offstage you should have rumbled that these four naive girls (in training for our

virginity" says Marina) are prisoners-of-war in a Japanese camp. How on earth they got here, however, remains as much a mystery as how they find each other's company bearable. They whittle away the months enacting their fantasies of being chased by assorted aristocratic prats through make-believe fox hunts and balls.

It's a bit like *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* and *Tenko* for teenagers. The continual fight over the pecking order, and who gets to play whose boyfriend, gives Hescott's unbelievable play some inaudible comic bite. Emma Manton's *Inogin* plays Cassandra's socially acceptable but genetically impure boyfriend, Freddie. Because of her Mancunian accent Kate Warshaw's Thora plays all the working-class roles. And Ariana Fraval's Marina, secretly in love with Rebecca Brown's willowy Cassandra, nearly trumps Freddie by declaring her true feelings while posing as poney Henry. Hescott's play never illuminates how captors and captives relate. The cast pan-furiously for suggests of sentiment from Thomas East's sieve of a production, but pain in vain.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

NEIL COOPER

THE TIMES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1998

A sardonic joker in the graveyard

The German artist Thomas Schütte has mounted a startling show in London. Richard Cork reports

At the outset of his career, in 1981, Thomas Schütte painted a picture of his own grave. The blood-red tombstone bears only the artist's name and the stark dates of his birth and death. They announce his death in March 1996, at the age of 41. Two small, spectre-white figures gaze up at the forbidding inscription, emphasising by their size just how colossal the house-shaped monument is.

Schütte has lived long enough to confound his youthful prediction. Now one of the most outstanding middle-generation German artists, he is staging his first substantial British exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. But the mordant humour that led him to depict his own grave has not gone away. It informs everything he produces, even if the work on show here is so bewilderingly various that several different artists might be on display.

The first persona he presents at the Whitechapel is Schütte the caricaturist. Marooned on tall, pillar-like plinths, pairs of grotesque figurines writhe, scowl and leer at each other. Their columnar supports look classical, and Schütte started making them after studying antique sculpture in Rome. The figurines themselves, though, have nothing to do with Praxiteles. The glass containing them accentuates their sense of imprisonment. Impaled on sticks that serve as makeshift armatures, the heads have a severed air. But they are unable to free themselves from the clothes binding them so unwillingly to their companions.

The sticks protrude lower down, like the artificial limbs jutting out of wounded ex-soldiers' bodies in macabre post-1918 paintings by Otto Dix and George Grosz. I assure Schütte has no intention of making a direct reference to Germany's plight after the First World War. All the same, his conjoined figurines might reflect a sardonic awareness of his country's state in the 1990s, ostensibly unified and yet unable to achieve a satisfactory fusion. Schütte calls these vigorously modelled figures *United Enemies*. But apart from acknowledging that they might have been influenced by political corruption in Rome, he is loath to speculate about their larger meaning.

luggage included in his Kassel sculpture reflects "the feeling that people who come from elsewhere are taking things away; that they are thieves". The presence of luggage, much of it looking more like vases than suitcases, also helped Schütte to develop a new approach to figurative sculpture. The strangers themselves had vases instead of legs; their upper bodies were severely simplified and realistic features beneath expressionistic hair. Several contrasting approaches were brought together, without attempting to disguise their differences, by an artist who thrives on defying our expectations.

Just as Schütte challenges the whole notion of a single

Working on a grand scale, he challenges the whole notion of a single style

style, so he is fascinated by the fragment. Upstairs at the Whitechapel Alain Colas, the solitary yachtsman who disappeared in the Atlantic, becomes the subject of a clay head. Far larger than the *United Enemies*, he is nevertheless disembodied. Only one shoulder remains, and the rest of his body has been sliced off at the chest. The surviving bust is battered, the head swathed in a white, bandage-like material. With sunken and protruding eyes, Colas sits on rough wooden pallets as if adrift in the ocean. His boat is nowhere to be seen, and in a nearby watercolour Colas's even more pitiful head is perched on a pillar submerged in dark water. He cannot stay above the surface for long, and Schütte uses the form of a public monument merely to drive home the mariner's predicament.

But the desire to work on a grand scale still fires Schütte's imagination as much as it did when he painted his tombstone in 1981. Walk through the Whitechapel's downstairs space, and you will suddenly encounter, behind the central screen, a group of aluminium titans. Highly polished and riddled with reflections, their bodies bulge chaotically like Michelin men gone awry. They resemble even more a lumbering gang of automata. Four are grouped in pairs, reminiscent of the *United Enemies*. But they are not tied together, and no glass cases limit their movement. They stand on the floor, superhuman enough in size to suggest that they might threaten the world.

Schütte does not, however, allow them to become all-conquering. An air of pointlessness hangs over their movements. One giant leans forward, as if reeling from a blow. Another flings arms in the air, reacting with dismay to some unguessable catastrophe. If these gleaming robots are indeed invaders, capable of establishing themselves as a master race on earth, they

seem remarkably uncertain about their purpose. Perhaps they have just happened on to our planet by accident, and now blunder around how best to proceed. Or maybe they are unable to co-operate with each other and, like the frangible *United Enemies*, are condemned to interminable quarrels rather than achieving more worthwhile ends.

Schütte calls them *Big Spirits*, an enigmatic title indicating that they might be apparitions. Their solidity is certainly countered by the polished surfaces, for the myriad reflections prevent us from seeing them properly. And their shimmering metal suggests that they might suddenly vanish, like special-effect phantasms in a Hollywood sci-fi extravaganza. Sure enough, figures disappear altogether in the main upstairs gallery. Here Schütte assumes the identity of an architect manqué, forever constructing elaborate models of ambitious buildings. They seem rational at first, laid out in a long avenue of spartan chipboard tables. The more we explore them, however, the odder they become. Three structures titled *For the Birds*, painted yellow and orange, are punctured by rows of unvarying rounded apertures. They bear an inescapable resemblance to those silent, expectant facades bordering the piazzas in de Chirico's paintings. They seem melancholy, and the suspicion that they might have been abandoned is strengthened by the Basement models nearby. Stairs plummet into a Piranesian labyrinth, their complexity soon lost in the gloom.

If Schütte's other models are sprucer than the mouldering cellars, they fail to offer reassurance. A toy-sized Mercedes-Benz, cases its silver snout from a garage. But no chauffeur sits at the wheel, and the adjoining house appears equally deserted. Some of the models boast a civic grandeur, recalling the Utopian architectural optimism of the early 20th century. Peer inside the windows, though, and you will find that the towers and mansions are devoid of stairs and floors. Even the clusters of buildings called *Collector's Complex* courts futility. Their grid-like facades are open, suggesting that the owner might welcome visitors eager to sample the art housed inside. Nothing is visible, however, and the whole complex is overshadowed by



Adrift: Schütte's monumental 1989 clay head of Alain Colas, the lone yachtsman who disappeared in the Atlantic

the rudimentary bulk of a transport crate in one corner. Most of the works are probably stored inside, the victims of a world where the size and quantity of art production far outstrip the space available to display them. So they remain snuffed out in the crate, its riveted wooden sides coldly reminiscent of an up-ended coffin. Although Schütte has defied the early death forecast on his tombstone, the imagery of the graveyard haunts him still.

Thomas Schütte is at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (0171-522 7878) until March 15

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available recordings in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

FALLA'S THE THREE-CORNERED HAT
Reviewed by Stephen Walsh
The Three-Cornered Hat was the star of Diaghilev's first postwar Ballets Russes season, in London in 1919. In Spain at the end of the war he and Massine had made friends with Manuel de Falla; in Barcelona they all went to a play called *The Corregidor* and the Miller's Wife, with incidental music by him, and Massine had suggested turning it into a ballet. Later they had travelled round Spain, Falla collecting material for the ballet. Massine studying flamenco. *The Three-Cornered Hat* took London by storm, with Massine as the Miller, Karsavina as his wife, and Wozzokovsky as the lecherous Corregidor — the Mayor in his tricorne hat — who has a trumped-up charge while he tries unsuccessfully to seduce his wife.

Although the *Hat* is a farce, it has its share of that dark passion so typical of Falla's marvellous earlier ballet, *El Amor brujo*. Curious, nevertheless, how few non-Hispanic recordings survive. There is a well-characterised version by the Suisse Romande under Ernest Ansermet, who conducted the premiere and many subsequent revivals. He shows an excellent theatrical touch, and is good in the action music as well as the

brilliant dances. Still more dazzling is Charles Dutoit with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, one of the modern versions, and by far the best recorded. These are the only serious "foreign" contenders, since Yan Pascal Tortelier with the Philharmonia and Gerard Schwarz with the LSO are spoilt by undistinguished recording. The Spanish contingent is dominated by Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos's beautiful, idiomatic EMI recording from the Sixties, superbly played by the Philharmonia and still sounding well. Frühbeck is best in the dances; he paces the action music less well. Of the other Hispanics, Eduardo Toldra with the French Radio Orchestra, a mono original from the Fifties, would be a plausible budget-price choice if it came singly instead of in a four-disc set, and I also enjoyed Edmon Colomer conducting the admirable Spanish National Youth Orchestra. For me the eventual choice lies between Frühbeck (mid-price, but two discs, with Falla's *Atalanta*) and Dutoit, at full price. Dutoit's all-round flair and musicality, and the brilliant playing and recording (Decca 410 008-2, £15.49), are decisive for me, but not without regret, and I shall continue to listen to Frühbeck (CMS 5 65997-2) with pleasure.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk
Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Mozart's Don Giovanni

AROUND THE GALLERIES

EVERY student knows that the classic British watercolour tradition deeply affected mid 19th-century French painters and led them in the direction later dubbed Impressionism. But there were other elements which were too bold even for the Impressionists to take up. The subjection of such work to wind and weather makes it sometimes feel more like Abstract Expressionism, Action Painting and Art Brut.

Karl Jackson, having his first London show at David Messum, offers a useful reminder. His watercolours show mostly what one would expect of a painter resident in Cornwall: sun shining on sea, gorse turning gold. But he is only 26, and his background in zoology does not suggest a rootedly conservative disposition. Master of the traditional wash, he is also ready gleefully to set about distressing his surfaces. At first one thinks: "Ah yes, Constable meets Mathieu." But it is all there in the British tradition. David Messum, 8 Cork St, W1 (0171-437 5545), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm, until Feb 14

Ben Kadishman is another artist who uses tradition to his own ends. A landscape artist in his early thirties, his paintings are impressionistic views of dark, sometimes clearly industrial landscapes, with stormy and mobile skies. And they are painted on glass, a longstanding peasant tradition which allows him to suggest the way a child sees the outside world, through a glass darkly. The Mayor Gallery, 22A Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 3555), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until March 14

Nora Summers (1892-1948) was a free spirit who trained at the Slade under Tonks. Married to fellow-student Gerald Summers, she drifted into the Augustus John circle and began an intense relationship with another member of the group, Yvonne Macnamara, whose daughter Caitlin married Dylan Thomas. She has had no solo show since 1920, and the work now gathered together demonstrates that this neglect was quite unjust. There are brilliant country scenes and still-lives, flower-pieces and pellucid images of maternity. Sally Hunter Fine Art, 11 Halkin Arcade, Motcomb St, SW1 (0171-235 0934), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, until Feb 20.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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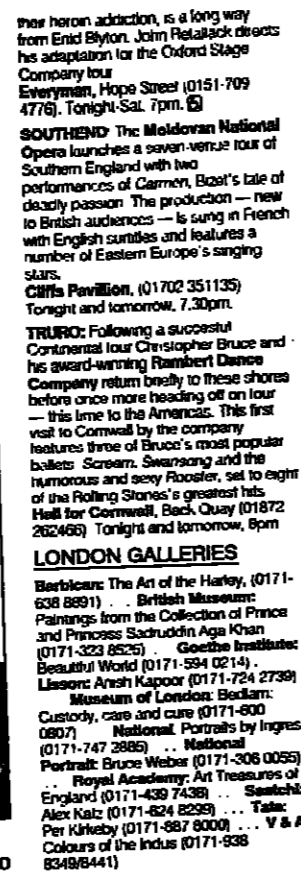
LANCASTER: Having recently finished collaborating with Stanley Kubrick on...

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CINEMA GUIDE

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THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (18)
RESURRECTION MAN (18)



Christopher Bruce brings Rambert to Truro



Where once Chumbawamba's problem was that of being politicians who wanted to be pop stars, now it is the other way round

Show goes right on

Back in the 1980s, when Chumbawamba sang of Revolution and released albums such as Pictures of Starving Children...

ter. This convivial concert felt more like a reunion of loyal supporters than a gathering of naive converts...

sentiments, the eight-piece band barrels along, voices locked in unison, held aloft by Jude Abbott's soaring trumpet...

Let's rock-a-bye, sweet baby James

CAVALIER use of the phrase "singer-songwriter" on the playing fields of modern music is usually enough to earn a red card for bad language...

young Bohemian lolling on the grass on the cover of his debut album, 30 years ago. Even in his heyday, Taylor was...

from the man who almost owned the style before it became a marketing contrivance. With acoustic guitar ever-present...

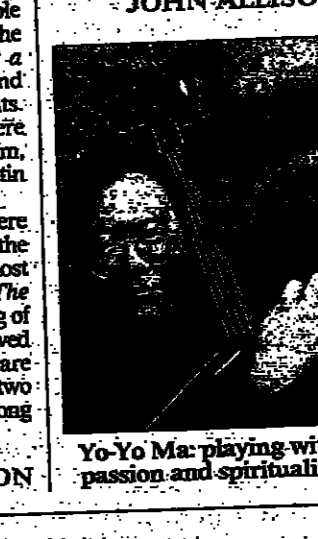
Secret suite hearts

No one player can hold all the secrets to Bach's suites for solo cello, but Yo-Yo Ma's Wigmore Hall recital brought a reminder that he holds more than almost any other...

RECITAL

Here, performing three of the suites, he went straight to the heart of the matter. The cellist's warm, nutty tone and the clarity of his articulation...

Ma's prelude to the Sixth Suite was majestic, and his instrument rang out resonantly. The Allemande sounded as if he was caressing the cello...



Yo-Yo Ma: playing with passion and spirituality

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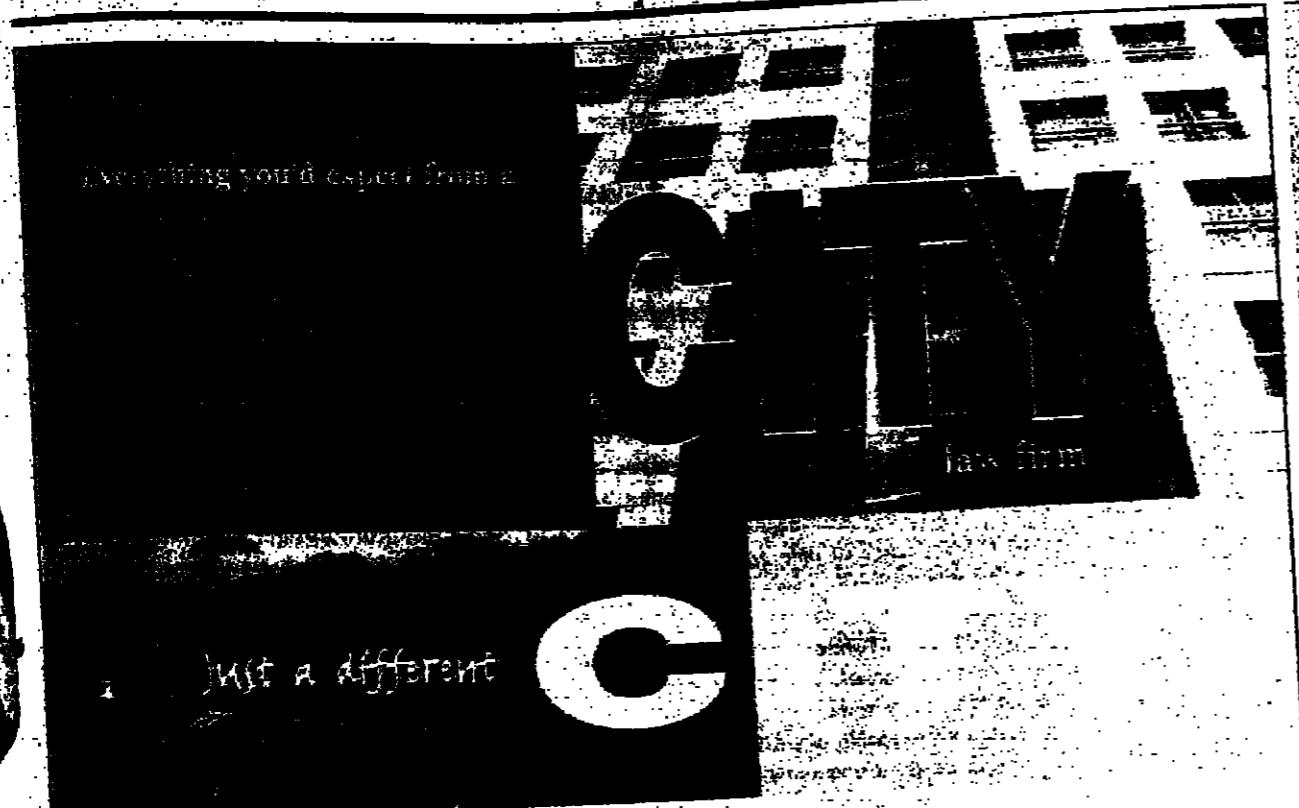
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LAW REPORT 22

Frances Gibb sets the scene for a conference with a difference and an awards competition

An end to the old sex war?

Battling against discrimination — what critics call the "whinging women" industry — is out. Promoting equal treatment for men as well as women, is in — that is the message from Kamlesh Bahl, who chairs the Equal Opportunities Commission. She was launching the commission's proposals for revamped equality laws; and with it, promoting a new attitude: "to move from fighting discrimination to promoting the positive right to equal treatment" is how she put it.

The conference is now a mainstream event. As the theme — "Achieving the Balance" — suggests, it is aimed at both sexes. The organiser, Margaret McCabe, a barrister, says: "This conference is as much for men. We want to show how lawyers of both genders can achieve a balance between work and home life. The advent of job-sharing, part-time employment and the reality of the 'mobile lawyer' means that no one has to be sitting at a desk for 12 to 14 hours a day. It's about quality of life for the individual."

Europe, and its impact, will be the focus of a panel session to coincide with the UK's presidency of the Union. Speakers will talk on the experience of promoting equality in America, France and Australia. The occasion is also marked by The Times Women of Achievement in the Law Awards (below). The winner will be the individual who has done the most to promote good practice in equal opportunities.



Conference people: Janet Gayner, an employment law specialist and winner of last year's Woman of Achievement in the Law; Cherie Blair, QC, and Lord Irvine of Lairg



Some way to go before we find equality

The plight of many junior women in the legal profession was recognised as a serious problem at last year's Woman Lawyer Conference, and the results of a Young Women Lawyers (YWL) survey suggest the conference was right to be concerned. Four out of five women law students believe that they will face male chauvinism or sexist behaviour when they join the legal profession, according to the survey conducted among 243 women delegates at the Barbican Graduate Law Fair last year. Some even encountered such attitudes at the fair. One said: "A big City firm said when I approached its stand that it did not specialise in family law. Assuming that as a woman I would want to work in family law seemed sexist."

Half of women law students thought that unequal pay and sexual harassment were still problems for women entering law. Several students had experienced harassment while on work placements. One student said that one of the partners "had persistently made overt [sexual] comments" to her during a placement. Another respondent had been subjected to comments such as "Flash your legs at the judge to win him over."



City law firm (last year's runner-up) who is chairing a workshop, said: "The debate has moved on. It is really about how to achieve flexible working so as to ensure quality of life and a proper balance so that too much time is not spent on working to the detriment of family, cultural and other pursuits."

Wilde Sapte has introduced a scheme so that people who do a heavy stint on a deal, working, say, 18 hours a day, will then take a block of three weeks or so off, on top of their normal holiday entitlement. The issue, she emphasises, is not gender-related: for the first time, the balance between the sexes has decisively shifted. At her law firm, 27 out of 30 recruits this year were women.

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Old guard rears its head

IS the old guard at the Law Society rearing its head again? The legacy of Martin Mears, who prompted the first contested election for the presidency three years ago, was to get rid of what had become known as "Buggins's" turn. The key post was that of deputy vice-president — chosen in a secret voting system by council members — and the holder would then move progressively up through to vice-president and then president. Mears blew all that out for the next three elections. But now the society's policy committee has drawn up plans that would require any one standing to obtain the backing of the council through a secret ballot. Three names would go forward.

A show to judge

THREE JUDGES are taking to the boards this week in an "Elizabethan revel" at Middle Temple from tomorrow to Saturday. Mr Justice Eady, circuit judge Peter Cowell and Judge Blackfell, are all appearing in The Prince of Love, with Mr Justice

Worthy goals

THE Israeli football internationalists Ronny Rosenthal and Eyal Berkovic look on all comers at a "meet the players" evening staged recently by S.J. Berwin & Co. The event attracted 100 guests from the sports business world. City and the London-based Israeli business community. Rosenthal, formerly of Liverpool and Spurs and now Watford — and Berkovic, who revived Southampton last season and is now doing the same

Ratings game

WHAT DO clients think of the top commercial law firms? Next month they have a chance to give their view. CSS, a research consultancy, is conducting its fifth UK survey, Image and Performance of Legal Advisers, to find out which firms have the best reputation and to pinpoint weaknesses and strengths in the market. The survey is carried out every two years and the 1998 sample will involve 300 companies with an annual turnover of more than £40 million. Details: Ben Bolton, 0181-332 0808.

Fees, please

A DISPUTE over legal costs has the makings of a diplomatic incident. A small firm of quantity surveyors, Davis LeRoy & Partners, of Harrow, northwest London, had a contractual dispute when employed by the Ghanaian Government in 1991 to refurbish properties in London. Though the firm won an arbitration award in its favour, it is still awaiting payment of its legal costs — with interest, £308,086. Ghana's High Commission has agreed to pay but, despite the intervention of the Foreign Office, has yet to send a cheque. The commission says it is awaiting confirmation from Accra. Mr LeRoy comments: "We have been there before. This is a scandal. We should never have had to go to arbitration to obtain our fees in the first place, and now we have all this endless wrangling over obtaining our costs."

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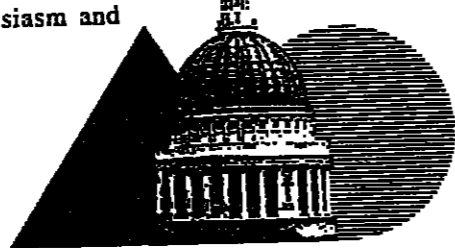
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Corporate and Commercial Lawyers
London EC1
This international law firm is looking to recruit lawyers with up to one year's experience. You will be involved in M&As, JVs, non finance related project work and other aspects of general corporate and commercial work. A City background is preferred. Contact Samantha Knowles. Ref: 526

Corporate Banking
London EC1
This leading international City based firm is looking for a 2 to 6 year qualified lawyer with previous banking experience. The work will involve rescue and restructuring, advisory and transactional matters together with some work on the introduction of EMU. Contact Jane Foster. Ref: 392

Employee Share Schemes
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One of the world's largest international law firms requires a lawyer with up to 4 years post qualification experience. The work will be transaction based or will relate to specific clients' needs for leading edge pensions advice. An interest in this area of the law is sought - not necessarily experience. Contact Jane Foster. Ref: 2286

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Corporate Finance (all levels)
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This leading international firm offering high profile work seeks general finance lawyers who speak German. Contact Charlotte Kenny. Ref: 1957

Commercial (2 to 6 years)
Hong Kong
This is one of the UK's leading international law firms. They are looking for candidates with Chinese language ability and ideally some Chinese experience to handle a varied commercial workload. Contact Charlotte Kenny. Ref: 3087

International Roles for UK Lawyers in Paris
We currently have two major multinational clients who both require UK lawyers to be based in Paris. One seeks a lawyer with between 2 and 5 years general commercial experience and the other requires a lawyer at a similar level but with banking and corporate skills gained from a major City firm. You must speak another European language and be prepared to travel the world. Contact Naveen Tuli. Ref: 2000

European Lawyers for US Multinationals
If you are a German, French, Italian, Dutch, Belgian, Swedish, Danish, Israeli, Hungarian or Czech qualified lawyer with at least 2 years corporate and commercial law experience gained from a leading international law firm or multinational, please contact Naveen Tuli who is currently handling a number of assignments for US multinationals throughout Europe. Ref: 2000

In-House Banking Lawyers - London & New York
The demand for first class lawyers with between 2 and 8 years banking and capital markets experience continues to rise. There is such an acute shortage of banking candidates in both London and New York, that our clients are willing to recruit London lawyers for New York based roles and vice versa. If you want to discuss these transatlantic in-house opportunities contact St. John Whittle. Ref: 2000

European Role for UK Lawyer
This high profile multinational seeks a 3 to 5 year qualified lawyer with commercial and transactional experience, gained either from a leading law firm or other multinational. Languages are a bonus and you must be willing to travel. Contact Rachael North. Ref: 3089

Information Technology
London
This company is the largest European computer services company and is in the top three worldwide. It now seeks an additional lawyer with between 2 and 5 years experience to deal with a wide range of contracts including outsourcing, systems integration and consultancy agreements to join an expanding team. Contact Rachael North. Ref: 2989

Telecoms/Commercial
Berk
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Company/Commercial Lawyer
South West
A senior lawyer with around 5 years experience, is required to join this major US corporation to handle a spread of work including M&As, due diligence and JVs. Contact Rachael North. Ref: 1166

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BANKING/INSURANCE To £55,000
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PROPERTY JUNIOR To £30,000
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LITIGATION/INSOLVENCY To £60,000
This is an excellent opportunity for a general commercial litigator with 2-6 years' exp who would also like to specialise in an estate in insolvency matters. You can expect a good quality workload at this very reputable medium-sized City firm, as well as the chance to take real responsibility. Ref: T46656

BANKING/FINANCE To £60,000
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CORPORATE/FINANCE To £50,000
A less pressured, more reasonable life for a 1-3 year qualified lawyer beckons at the London office of this Global firm. Excellent experience, top pay and international travel if you have 1-3 years' exp in corporate or banking. Ref: T44663

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY To £40,000
The property department of this medium-sized City firm has an even higher reputation than the rest of the firm, and offers general commercial property lawyers with 1-2 years' exp top training, no billing targets, less pressure and a good partner to assistant ratio. No wonder nobody leaves. Ref: T46333

BANKING/PROPERTY FINANCE To £50,000
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ENERGY To £65,000
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PROJECT FINANCE To £80,000
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PROPERTY To £50,000
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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Sarah David, Nick Shilton or Gavin Skerpe (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-485 6662 (0181-789 7704 or 0181-567 3952 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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TENNIS

Rafter sparks new era in awakening of sleeping giants

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

THE long-term future of tennis is the subject of lengthy debate. They fear for its future in the United States, where television's mighty dollar is ambivalent to the lure of Pete Sampras. And they are anxious in Germany, whose players no longer dine at the game's high table. With declining interest in two of its biggest markets, where now?

The answer is straightforward: to Great Britain and France, South America and Australia - where the opening grand-slam event of 1998 was an outstanding success. Record crowds flocked to Melbourne Park, which was host to 438,807 visitors, an 11 per cent increase over the corresponding fortnight in 1997, itself a record year.

All this can be attributed to one man: Pat Rafter. One man, or woman, is all it takes to awaken a sleeping giant like Australia. Venus Williams will do it for the United States, just as Tim Henman has done it for Great Britain. Russia has Anna Kournikova, and France with one man in the semi-finals and two women in the quarters, is on the way.

Despite his premature exit, Rafter was the talker. Expectations were unreasonably high, as they will be for Britain's two men at Wimbledon in the summer - and just as they were for Andre Agassi, who even began to believe himself that he could plunder the prize despite limited recent court-time. Nevertheless, he enthralled, both in victory and defeat.

Agassi was involved in the match of the championships: an entrancing five-setter against Alberto Berasategui, of Spain. Berasategui, the rogue of the piece, had accounted for Rafter, yet his game reached heights that demanded support from the local audience. His defeat of

Agassi demonstrated that the American, for all his flamboyance, had yet to hone his game to the requisite level.

And what of Sampras, tamed by Karol Kucera? The man is driven not by feet, but by his own assault on the history books. Sampras, the world No.1 for five years, has lost interest in everything but the eight weeks in which grand slams are played.

Offer Sampras \$5 million in annual earnings or one grand-slam title and he would snap your hand off for the latter. Should he fail to add to his ten grand-slam titles in 1998, the two he requires to equal Roy Emerson's record will seem like a distant horizon. An unwelcome horizon looms large for Michael Chang, his compatriot, whose early exit sees him slip outside the top five for the first time in more than three years. Chang, 25, looks all washed out.

There were upsets galore, although Petr Korda and Marcelo Rios contested a grand-slam final between seeds for the first time since

Sampras defeated Chang in the 1996 US Open. Rafter's reign as the world No.2 survived two tournaments, an illustration of how closely matched are all men ranked in the top 50. Rarely has seeded status in a field of 128 been more academic.

The Australian Open also illustrated that the women's game is in an unsatisfactory state of flux. Martina Hingis, born, like the men's singles winner, Petr Korda, in the former Czechoslovakia, extended her dominance by winning her fourth grand-slam title in five outings. However, the women's event resounded to the heartbeat of youth.

The best match, by far, was Hingis's joint with Kournikova in the third round. The champion's subsequent matches saw her dispatch familiar opponents, none of whom have troubled her in the past. Welcome though her revival was, Conchita Martinez, playing her second grand-slam final, could hardly have been expected to stretch Hingis. Nor could Anke Huber in the semi-finals, Mary Pierce in the quarters or Yuzuk Basuki in the round of 16.

While the Women's Tennis Association's restrictions on age are welcome, they have served to restrain the women's game at a time when it has rarely been more exciting. Kournikova, the Williams sisters, and Mirjana Lucic are teenagers who will carry the baton to Hingis.

Until they can play regularly enough to establish a seeded berth in grand-slam tournaments, these four will continue to test Hingis in the early rounds. Such matches are already befitting of championship deciders. The age restrictions have created an unfortunate impasse, albeit for all the right reasons.

Rusedski on the slide

GREG RUSEDSKI, the British No.1, has dropped two places to No.8 in the latest ATP world rankings announced yesterday, but Tim Henman has remained at No.18 despite his first-round defeat in the Australian Open.

Rusedski was leaptfrogged by both Petr Korda, the Czech left-hander who has risen to No.2 after winning the Australian Open, and Marcelo Rios, of Chile, now ranked No.5 after losing the Melbourne final.

Rankings, page 49



Out of step: Jørgensen and Sinkinson in the unconventional attire that has provoked outrage among judges, who have warned that it could lead to anarchy within the sport

DANCE SPORT

Rebel couple put judges in tailspin

By Ruth Gledhill

BALLROOM dancing may never be the same again. Judges have reacted with horror and warned of anarchy after Andrew Sinkinson, the national champion, committed the ultimate in sartorial solecisms in the United Kingdom championships at Bournemouth.

Sinkinson, 33, who is known for his rebellious nature since he introduced some controversial new steps into his dancing two years ago, abandoned the traditional tail suit with dress shirt, studs and white bow tie that have been worn for a century or more.

Instead, he sported a simple waistcoat over a full-sleeved white shirt. His Danish-born partner, Charlotte Jørgensen, 26, with whom he won the British championship last November, also defied convention by eschewing the usual 'jewel-encrusted' tressie for a plain black dress with no decoration at all.

"It made me feel really free and light," an unrepentant Sinkinson said after coming fourth, behind Marcus and Karen Hilton, the world champions, Luca Baricchi and Loraine Barry, of England, and Augusto Schiavo and Caterina Arzento, of Italy. "It was really nice to be doing something different."

Jørgensen concurred. "Quite a few people are using this style for demonstrations," she said. "It's a lot freer and it's not so restricting. Andrew has very broad shoulders and a long, thin body so he could carry it off well."

Sinkinson wore the waistcoat in the afternoon and switched back to a tail suit for the final three rounds in the evening, but the judges were not impressed. A senior insider, said: "It is wrong for this renegade to do this. I did not approve at all and I told him so. It only takes one person like him to do it for others to do the same next year."

Michael Houseman, a leading coach and judge, who won the 1960 UK championship with his wife, Valerie, said: "We cannot have people

wearing strange clothes like this. Anything could happen. I am old-fashioned and I like the tail coat. We have seen what happened in the Latin section. It went from tail coats to dinner jackets, from dinner jackets to ordinary jackets and from there to catsuits."

But, in spite of tradition, change appears to be on the horizon. Kaj Lillebo and Lena Granås recently won the Norwegian championship, with him dancing in a pullover and her in a pleated skirt with matching top.

John Leach, the editor of *Dance News*, said: "I quite like it. I think we have got to



Traditional dance wear

experiment with the ballroom dress, so that it becomes more relevant to today. Tails are superb because they create the line and the shape but, unfortunately, they have an old-fashioned image. But the traditionalists are not going to like this very much."

And Zof Uffindell, of IMG, the sports marketing organisation that has agreed a joint venture with the IDSF, the international amateur dance body, to promote dance sport worldwide, said: "We would be happy to see any changes that the dancers and the IDSF are also happy with that would make the sport more attractive and accessible to a wider television audience."

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RUGBY UNION

Catt is switched to full back in England shuffle

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

JEREMY GUSCOTT will be regarded as something of a weathercock at this time. Last month Bath recalled him after a long convalescence and their match (with Newcastle) was postponed because of a waterlogged pitch. Yesterday England did the same only to find their first Five Nations Championship match, with France on Saturday, in doubt because of frost.

As for Mike Catt, the wheel has turned full circle. His international career with England began four years ago at full back and he returns there for his 27th appearance, his all-round footballing qualities demanding a place in the back division somewhere, even at the expense of the talented youngster, Matt Perry, who played in the four autumn internationals against the three southern-hemisphere countries.

It has not been Perry's year so far. Last week he discovered that the exigencies of goal-kicking meant there was no place for him in the Bath team that played Brive in the Heineken Cup final; this week he has conceded his international place to Catt, his club colleague. No wonder he is said to be working on his goal-kicking regularly, to create extra appeal for the England management.

It is Bath players who are almost exclusively involved in the changes made to the XV that started England's last international — the 26-26 draw with New Zealand at Twickenham in December. Catt is in for Perry, Guscott for Phil de Glanville and Mark Regan returns at hooker in place of the injured Richard Cockerill. But what better time to call on the club than in the aftermath of their European success in Bordeaux.

"For the first time since I have been in charge, there was a discussion from strength over selection," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said. "To change the team from the last game was a tough decision but I felt that,

playing away, it was key to have the extra experience that Mike and Jerry bring. "They are very pacy players and I think it marginally strengthens the team." Woodward hinted last week, when the squad gathered at Bisham Abbey, that there had been faults in the display against the All Blacks, though he agreed that the qualities displayed then and since by Paul Grayson at fly half left the Northampton player in command of the pivotal position.

Having decided that De Glanville and Will Greenwood are both, by inclination, inside centres, the decision was to choose between them, once Woodward was convinced of Guscott's fitness

TEAM

ENGLAND v France, Saturday, M J Catt (Bath), D L Bass (Sale), W J H Greenwood (Leicester), J C Guscott (Bath), A S Huxley (Leicester), P J Grayson (Northampton), K P Bracken (Saracens), J Leonard (Harlequins), M P Riegan (Bath), D J Garforth (Leicester), M O Johnson (Leicester), G S Archer (Newcastle), L B N Dalglish (Wasps, captain), M A Back (Leicester), R A Hill (Saracens), P R de Glanville (Bath), M J S Dawson (Northampton), G C Rowntree (Leicester), D West (Leicester), D J Greenwood (Saracens), T A K Rodber (Northampton), A J Diprose (Saracens)

after six months away from the game. Greenwood's greater physical presence and slight edge in pace won the day, even though the Leicester centre has not been at the top of his form since his return from a shoulder injury.

Catt was also in contention at centre, but Woodward shrugs off the formalities of position. As far as he is concerned, Catt's vision and speed on the ball make him a threat anywhere in the back division, an argument reinforced by Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, who said that most players in the modern game had to be familiar with two or three different positions.

The deposed players remain

part of the squad of 23 named yesterday, one of whom will have to become a supernumerary on the day after the decision last week of the International Rugby Football Board to extend to seven the number of permitted replacements. When Woodward names his squad for the second international of the championship, against Wales on February 21, it will be 26 strong as he tries to familiarise the maximum number of players with training patterns and match calls.

He will be delighted that Tim Rodber and Tony Diprose, the form players of the Allied Dunbar Premiership just now, are putting pressure on the back-row places and they are joined among the replacements for the first time by Dorian West. He and Cockerill have vied for the place of hooker with Leicester this season and though, at 30, West is no spring chicken, he has been in rumbustious form and has shown all the ball-handling qualities of a former flanker.

But Woodward has remained true to the back row that allowed England to play so well against New Zealand: "I spoke to Pierre Vilheux [France's assistant coach] and he said the thing that scares him is the pace of our back row," Woodward said. "I'm sure we're the envy of the other unions, having Rodber and Diprose on the bench. The key part of our game is the talent we have at six, seven and eight."

"We've heard the reports about how well Rodber, Diprose and Danny Grewcock are playing at the moment but they know they're in a competitive environment." The same holds true for Perry, whose time will come again. "I gave him the reasons for leaving him out and he took it fine," Woodward added. "I didn't expect him to be jumping up and down but he's in the squad, he's an exceptional player and he'll be a bigger bloke for this."

Larder puts great store by rival code



Larder, impressed by what he has witnessed so far, helps to prepare his new charges for the Five Nations Championship match against France

When Phil Larder describes himself as a "100 per cent union" man, he is not kidding.

Widnes to Workington. The Great Britain rugby league coach until 15 months ago who wrote a coaching manual and spent 29 years in the game, is talking professional commitment. That is what impressed him when he entered the England rugby union camp as coaching adviser last November.

"In many ways it was a lot more professional than the league set-up," he said. "Not only are the players focused, they're very coachable and have ownership on the tactics we use. They're equally as tough as top league players. With Ellery Hanley, Shaun Edwards and Andy Platt, you'd put your life in their hands, and I'm at that stage with England. Coming from me, that's praise indeed."

That is not to say that England are anywhere near successfully adapting rugby league techniques, in defence and multiphase attacking, for

The England rugby union team's recent coaching recruit from the league game has no regrets, Christopher Irvine reports

which Larder was brought in by Clive Woodward, the national coach. At 52, the old dog is having to learn new tricks — Larder has yet to complete his Rugby Football Union (RFU) coaching course — but his recruitment underlined Woodward's priority of developing a seamless, running style, necessary to win the World Cup next year.

Larder said: "A lot of the England team still have no conception of the skills and decision-making abilities of a league player. A league defence is far more difficult to break down. How often do you see someone in a top league game scoring from a first play-the-ball? League players automatically think in six plays, or phases, whereas in union it's one or two, a back-row move off a scrum, perhaps, and it can die."

"League coaches will look to drag a defence about for three or four plays before

looking to penetrate. Union is evolving, but it hasn't got there yet. New Zealand are nearest. As few men as possible are committed to ruck and Maul, with the rest adopting running positions like a league formation. What Clive is anxious for is not to fall into the trap of copying them, but developing something original."

It is partly why Larder lobbied for Mike Catt's selection at full back for the match against France on Saturday. "It's sometimes neglected as a great attacking position," he said. "Mike is a visionary who, with the broad sweep of the field, can best utilise his skills there."

Before joining the England party, Larder spent the weekend watching his sons win at both codes, one for Huddersfield YMCA, the Yorkshire II leaders, where Larder has also advised with coaching, and the other helping Keigh-

ley Cougars, where Larder enjoyed his happiest and most successful spell in rugby league, through to the fourth round of the Challenge Cup. But even before his dismissal as coach of Sheffield Eagles last season, Larder was coming back round to union.

Having spent six years as a union player, with Broughton Park, Sale and Loughborough Colleges, Larder turned professional with Oldham in 1968. "The only interest I had in union after that was the great Welsh side of the Seventies," he said. "The rest left me cold compared with league."

"What I saw from the southern hemisphere and on the Lions tour was a game rapidly changing. If Clive had wanted kicking and forward grind, the offer wouldn't have interested me, but what he presented was great vision." A call from Fran Cotton, a Loughborough alumnus, to

see if Larder knew of any league coaches prepared to help England out — and the fact that Larder had been forced to return to part-time teaching after his dismissal by Sheffield last May — resulted in his appointment as national development officer by the RFU, specifically to work with England's elite players.

He is not, as some said, England's "poaching" adviser. "I'm here to work with the existing squad, but I've no doubt that quite a few of the Britain team could make an impact at a high level in union, and vice versa," he said.

Of England's recent performances, Larder said: "Against Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, some of it was the standard of second division rugby league. The second New Zealand game, I was totally gripped."

"Some things came off, not others, but the learning process had begun. France is the most important game because it's the next one, but it's merely a stepping stone to the World Cup."

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Logan and Cronin called back into Scotland fold. Bath must exploit cup spirit. Includes photos of Logan and Cronin, and text by Kevin Ferris and David Hands.

TODAY'S FIXTURES. FOOTBALL. KICK-OFF 7.30 unless stated. FA Cup. Fourteenth round replays. Reading v Cardiff (7.45). Sheffield Utd v Ipswich (7.45). Wolverhampton v Charlton (7.45). Nationwide League. Second division. Bolton v Luton (7.45). Stockport v Bristol City. Third division. Doncaster v Mansfield. Auto Windscreens Shield. Northern section. Quarter-final. Burnley v Carlisle (7.45). Bet v Scunthorpe League. Second division. Doncaster v Barnsley (7.45). Margate v Cambridge City (7.45). DR MARTYNS LEAGUE. League Cup. Third round. Redditch v Scarborough. Fourth round. Moor Green v Beeston. Doncaster v Barnsley (7.45). Margate v Cambridge City (7.45). RYMAN LEAGUE. First division. Thame v Banbury (7.45). Abingdon Town v Bognor Regis. Second division. Ludlow v Brighthelm (7.45). Westgate v Witton (7.45). Third division. Luton v Harford (7.45). Croxall v Cambridge Town (7.45). Epson and Ewell v Redwood Heath (7.45). UNBOND LEAGUE. First division. Stockbridge FC v Belper Town. Premier Cup. Second round. Buxton v Lough Rm. Second-round replay. Bryn Spartans v Boston. ANON INSURANCE. COMBINATION. First division. Assel v Ouseburn Park Rangers (at Enfield, 2.0). PORTNORTH LEAGUE. Premier division. Lough v Northampton Forest (at Halifax, 7.0). First division. Grimsby v Bolton (7.0). WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE. First division. Folkestone Invicta v Backwell (7.45). Hama Bay v VCD Athletic (7.45). SOUTHWEST COAST LEAGUE. Premier division. Boscawen v Ouseburn Park Rangers (at Enfield, 2.0). ENGLISH INSURANCE. MIDLAND COMBINATION. Premier division. Lough v Northampton Forest (at Halifax, 7.0). First division. Grimsby v Bolton (7.0). NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE. First division. Amid v Epworth. Hatfield Heath v North Fenwick. Ludlow Town v Ouseburn Park Rangers (at Enfield, 2.0). THAMES FA YOUTH CUP. Fourth round. Arsenal v Bristol City. Watford v Everton. Crewe v Tottenham. OTHER SPORT. BASKETBALL. Uni-ball Trophy. Semi-final. First leg: London Towers v Newcastle Eagles (at London). HOCKEY. SNOOKERS. Benson and Hedges Masters (at Wembley Conference Centre).

RACING: HIGH COURT CASE AGAINST MIRROR GROUP NEWSPAPERS GETS UNDER WAY

Ramsdens pursue libel action

By CHRIS MCGRATH
THERE is never a dull moment on the turf at the moment, and for all that lawyers may reduce proceedings to a worthy topic...



Top Cees, noseband, gaining the first of two Chester Cup successes in 1995, is the subject of a High Court action

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: Fozzair (3.30 Musselburgh)
Fozzair held on well in what here last month and looks to be on the upgrade. The six-year-old colt returns to Southwell after being sent to the sales...

content of an editorial, the day after Top Cees won the Chester race by five lengths. On his previous start, the horse had finished fifth in a race at Newmarket. The case is expected to last two to three weeks.

punished despite the fact that they have not been accused of any misdemeanour, either by the police or the Jockey Club. A groundsview of opinion differs within the sport...

voluntary appearance of a sixth man at Charing Cross police station yesterday. He too was arrested and in common with the other five has been bailed to return on April 29.

mentary evidence will be available at Sandown and Leopardstown this weekend. The latter venue stages the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup on Sunday, though Imperial Call and Dorans Pride will be hard pressed to match the impressive Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup rehearsal of See More Business at Prestbury Park.

when running away with his first chase at the Christmas meeting. The Irish also have the favourite for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle in Istabraq, but something will be learned of the domestic defence in the Agia Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday.

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

Table with columns: Tote Handicap Hurdle, Sandown Park, February 7. Lists horses like Big Stride, Splendid Thyme, etc. with odds.

LINGFIELD PARK

Table with columns: THUNDERER, 1.45 Invocacion, 2.15 Plum Claiming Stakes, etc. Lists horses and odds.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: 0-100% winners from 10 races, 50% from 10 races, 100% from 10 races...

MARTIN PIPE has set ante-post punters a conundrum in the Tote Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle on Saturday...

Friendship would have completed a treble but for falling at the last at Kempton in December, and his earlier course and distance defeat of her's Flutter reads well.

2.45 NECTARINE MAIDEN STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for Nectarine Maiden Stakes.

3.15 DAMSON SELLING STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for Damson Selling Stakes.

3.45 GREENGAGE HANDICAP

Table listing horses and odds for Greengage Handicap.

4.15 CHERRY HANDICAP

Table listing horses and odds for Cherry Handicap.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Southwell
1.48 (5m) 1. Swain's Heart (R. French, 9-4) beat 2. Chabrol (F. J. 3. H. H. Hooper...

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER
3.00 Blue Charm
3.00 Palace of Gold
4.00 Dr Bonnes
4.30 Rocheburg

3.00 KILMARNOCK CUP HANDICAP CHASE

401 31-1124 BLUE CHARM 11 (C.D.F.) M. L. ... 402 224-352 PURITAN 10 (C.D.F.) S. J. ...

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Some of the top players in the TGR high game also do well in duplicate events.

Bridge hand analysis showing Dealer North, Love all, IMPs, and a card layout with suits and ranks.

Simpson won the first trick in dummy, played a spade to the ace and a spade back to the ten, an intelligent move. East's pre-emptive action meant that the spades were much more likely than usual to be 4-1.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Champion falterers
At the elite tournament at Wijk aan Zee in Holland...

Chess board diagram showing a Sicilian Defence position with pieces labeled.

White: Priso Nijboer
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Sicilian Defence
1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 d4
3. Nxd4 Nf6
4. Nc3 Nd7
5. Bb5 Nc6
6. Bxc6 Nxc6
7. Qc2 Qc7
8. O-O O-O
9. Rf1 Rf8
10. Nd2 Nd7
11. Ne4 Nf6
12. Nc3 Nd7
13. Bb5 Nc6
14. Bxc6 Nxc6
15. Qc2 Qc7
16. O-O O-O
17. Rf1 Rf8
18. Nd2 Nd7
19. Ne4 Nf6
20. Nc3 Nd7
21. Bb5 Nc6
22. Bxc6 Nxc6
23. Qc2 Qc7
24. O-O O-O
25. Rf1 Rf8
26. Nd2 Nd7
27. Ne4 Nf6
28. Nc3 Nd7
29. Bb5 Nc6
30. Bxc6 Nxc6
31. Qc2 Qc7
32. O-O O-O

By Raymond Keene
Black to play. From the game C. Fear - Tregubov, Groningen 1997.

WORDS AND PHRASES

- REVUSICAL
a. A musical revue
b. Seeding from rhizomes
c. Sarcastic
SACKIE
a. A gambling game
b. Bed
c. A small parrot

Chess board diagram showing a winning move position with pieces labeled.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 1121-43 GOOD TIMES 13 (D.F.F.S.) (M. J. ... B West (7) 88

1.30 DOLLAR NOVICES HURDLE

Table listing horses and odds for Dollar Novices Hurdle.

2.00 WHITE CASTLE HANDICAP HURDLE

Table listing horses and odds for White Castle Handicap Hurdle.

2.30 ANDERSON STRATHERN NOVICES CHASE

Table listing horses and odds for Anderson Strathern Novices Chase.

3.30 TYNE WATER HANDICAP HURDLE

Table listing horses and odds for Tyne Water Handicap Hurdle.

4.00 SPOTT NOVICES CHASE

Table listing horses and odds for Spott Novices Chase.

4.30 WEATHERBY'S STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

Table listing horses and odds for Weatherby's Stars of Tomorrow race.

1997 COUNTRY ORCHARD 5-11-1 P HUNT

Table listing horses and odds for Country Orchard race.

1997 CUSH SUPREMACY 5-11-1 P HUNT

Table listing horses and odds for Cush Supremacy race.

MUSSELBURGH: Trainers

Table listing trainers and their success rates at Musselburgh.

RACELINE logo and contact information for Musselburgh racecourse.

Hibbitt faces replay ordeal

By Russell Kempson

WHATEVER the result, Kenry Hibbitt is likely to cut a forlorn figure at Elm Park this evening when his Cardiff City side take on Reading in their FA Cup fourth-round replay.

Hibbitt, Cardiff's director of football and, since Russell Osman's dismissal 12 days ago, caretaker manager, fell down the stairs at his home last Thursday. He sustained severely injured ribs, aggravating an injury from his playing days with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

It explained his subdued nature during the 0-0 draw away to Rochdale on Saturday. "I went for an X-ray on Friday and was told that, fortunately, the ribs weren't broken this time," Hibbitt said. "But I can't cough, I can't sneeze and I can hardly laugh. Our fans at Rochdale must have thought I'd had my tongue cut out."

"I fell from the top of the stairs right to the bottom. I had a cup of water in the other, and I wasn't going to let go of either because I wanted to save the carpet. And before you ask: no, I wasn't drunk."

Hibbitt communicated with his players at Spotland via Jimmy Goodfellow, the club physiotherapist. "I told Jimmy what to shout and when to shout," Hibbitt said. "He did it perfectly." At Hibbitt's request, Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, supervised training yesterday - his first club session since he left Coventry City four years ago.

Coincidentally, Gould will be at Elm Park tonight, having been invited by Terry Bullivant, the Reading manager, to watch Reading's Welsh contingent of Jason Bowen, Gareth Davies, Paul Bodin and Michael Meehan.

Reading are fifth in the Nationwide League first division and reached the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals this season. They should prove too strong for Cardiff, who languish in seventeenth position in the third division. However, it could take extra time and penalties to decide the outcome. Cardiff having drawn 1-1 of their 37 matches this season.

Mark Harris, their central defender, lives only two miles from Elm Park. "I've driven around 20,000 miles since mid-August," he said. "It'll be nice to have a home game for a change."

The winners will meet Sheffield United or Ipswich Town, who also try again tonight, at Bramall Lane, after a 1-1 draw at Portman Road. Charlton Athletic play Wolves at Molineux, the teams having drawn 1-1 at The Valley.

Matt Dickinson on the rise of the versatile Coventry City forward

Dublin hits right note with Hoddle

GLENN HODDLE first considered calling up Dion Dublin last year as a central defender. Now he is taken by the 28-year-old's striking abilities. So where was Dublin listed in the England squad yesterday? In midfield, of course.

Given Dublin's versatility - he even played saxophone live on Ian Wright's chat-show recently - the Coventry City player would probably cope in goal should Hoddle, the England coach, find himself short for the international match against Chile next Wednesday.

Nor would he complain, and it is that attitude as much as aptitude that saw Dublin's startling elevation into the World Cup possibilities list. It is a long way from banging in goals for John Beck's neanderthal Cambridge United.

Dublin, as amiable a footballer as they come, has even managed to emerge as the victim for turning down a contract worth £16,000 a week. While his chairman at Coventry has branded him a mercenary, Dublin has simply got on with his job of scoring goals. With four in the past two games, his stock, not least among Coventry fans, is higher than ever.

His ascent to international status

will raise it further still and, perhaps, hasten the move to one of the country's leading clubs that he craves as much as a pay rise. He has already sampled life among the footballing aristocracy during two years with Manchester United when he played little, but learnt much.

The goal that Dublin scored on his debut for United away to Southampton before his leg, and his hopes of a long Old Trafford future, were shattered, remained the highlight of his career. Until yesterday that is, when Hoddle's praise suggested that a regular squad place is not beyond him. With 15 goals this season, Dublin's days at centre half appear over.

"He was very close to being brought in last year as a defender," Hoddle said. "I saw him at Upton Park and he was very solid in a back three. Then he got reverted up front. John Gorman and Ray Clemence [Hoddle's assistants] went to see him and gave great reports of his target play and I saw him for myself last week against Derby. It was the best performance from a target man all season. As far as France is concerned, the door isn't closed to anyone."

Dublin had expected, at best, an invitation to join the B-team that will



'He was very close to being brought in last year as a defender'



Hoddle was full of praise for Dublin yesterday when he announced his England squads to face Chile

find himself back among that pack after an assured performance in his first senior match against Cameroon. Despite Hoddle's claim that the squads are not "as strictly A and B as they look", there was a clear hint that the teenage West Ham defender may have to bide his time.

There is a long-term situation with [Michael] Owen and Ferdinand, Hoddle said. "It is less of a risk with a striker than a defender. The pair could potentially become international players in five years. My problem is, can they do that in five months?"

While the likes of Merson, Barmby and Sutton will have faint hopes of France, most of the members of the B squad, of which 14 are aged 24 or under, will be looking to Japan and South Korea. For the likes of Nigel Quashie, the Queens Park Rangers midfielder player, Frank Lampard, of West Ham United, and the hugely promising Kieron Dyer, of Ipswich Town, the B internationals are a chance to build on the credit they have amassed at under-21 level. Rio Ferdinand may be surprised to

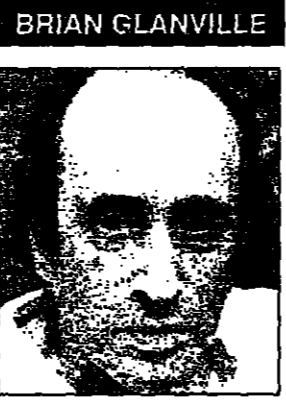
find himself back among that pack after an assured performance in his first senior match against Cameroon. Despite Hoddle's claim that the squads are not "as strictly A and B as they look", there was a clear hint that the teenage West Ham defender may have to bide his time.

Italy hopes suffer cruel break with Ferrara injury

Two leading players, badly hurt on Sunday, are out of the World Cup finals. Ciro Ferrara double-fractured his left leg playing for Juventus at Lecce. Juninho, Brazil's former Middlesbrough attacking midfielder player, tore ligaments and fractured his ankle playing for Atletico Madrid at Celta Vigo.

The blow to Italy's hopes seems the greater. Ferrara, who turns 31 tomorrow week, has not only been a powerful figure in Italy's defence but is also dangerous at set-pieces with his head in the opposing penalty box.

Since the retirement of Franco Baresi, Italy have not found central defenders abundant. The Azzurri do not have another match until they meet Paraguay in April. Internazionale picked themselves up with a 1-0 win at Brescia, the late, decisive



Overseas View

Time, though, is running out. The Azzurri do not have another match until they meet Paraguay in April. Internazionale picked themselves up with a 1-0 win at Brescia, the late, decisive

goal coming from Ronaldo, inspired perhaps by the honeyed words of Massimo Moratti, his benign president. The young Brazilian had two shots cleared off the line, missed a sitter, and finally headed in a cross by Recoba, the remarkably effective Uruguayan substitute.

Juventus retained their one-point lead over Inter at the top, despite losing Ferrara. It was sad to see the twilight of Giuseppe Giannini, once known as the Young Prince of Roma, the club he joined as a boy. In recent years, he has had an uneasy spell in Austria, a few bleak weeks this season at Napoli and now has gone to struggling Lecce. He was sent off in the second half.

Somewhat ironically, Juve's first goal came from Juliano Ferrara's substitute in defence, Alessandro Del Piero got the second. It was a strange few days

for Francesco Moriero, of Inter, born in Lecce, never a football town until Franco Causio emerged in the Seventies. Moriero was discarded by AS Roma last summer. AC Milan acquired him, but let him go to Inter. There, he has flourished to such an extent that he came on successfully last Wednesday as substitute for Italy against Slovakia. On Sunday, a nasty foul in the 82nd minute got him his second yellow card and the inevitable red.

Two Brazilian forwards were in rich form. The talented Elber, once discarded by Milan, scored twice in the Bundesliga for Bayern Munich in their 3-0 home win over lowly Hamburg, which put them a point ahead at the top of the League. Rivaldo scored both goals for Barcelona in their victory at Nou Camp over Sporting Gijon. Sonny Anderson, who



Juninho feels the pain as he is carried off in Vigo

joined Barcelona this season after scoring so freely with Monaco, has become the latest forward to fall out of Luis Van Gaal, Barcelona's Dutch manager, and could well follow Christophe

Durkin delighted by Fifa honour

By Russell Kempson

PAUL DURKIN, the FA Carling Premiership referee, has been selected for the World Cup finals in France. Mark Warren has also been chosen by Fifa, the sport's world governing body, to represent England as one of the assistant referees. Hugh Dallas, a referee in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, will be going, too.

Durkin, from Portland in Dorset, is one of 34 referees and 33 assistants who will take charge of the finals between June 10 and July 12. "It's going to be hard work, but I'm absolutely delighted," he said yesterday. "It has long been a dream of mine."

Having started his career in 1974, Durkin progressed to the Football League list in 1987 and on to the Premiership in 1992, when it was formed. He became a Fifa match official four years ago.

Portsmouth, the Nationwide League first division club, must wait until next week before finding out what action they may face following the assault on Edward Martin, an assistant referee, at the match against Sheffield United at Fratton Park on Saturday. The Football Association has already launched an inquiry.

"If it is found that our security was in some way lax, the FA could make us play behind closed doors," Terry Brady, a Portsmouth director, said. "That would be unfair but we don't seem to be having much luck at the moment."

David Ellery, a spokesman for the Premiership referees, said yesterday: "There have been growing concerns about the safety of match officials. Do we have to have an official seriously injured, or worse, before we get a proper reaction from the clubs?"

Portsmouth have been criticised for not having enough police officers at the game but Dave Watson, the club's safety officer, said: "It was an isolated incident which could have happened at any ground in the country. If a fan is determined to get on to the pitch, little can be done."

Martin sustained bruising to his face and shoulders but was released from hospital on Sunday. John Corker, 34, a butcher from Eastbourne, East Sussex, has been charged with three offences relating to the alleged attack. He has been bailed to appear before Portsmouth magistrates on February 16.

Manchester United are monitoring the progress of Oliver Bierhoff, the Germany and Ukraine striker, and Dario Hubner, who also plays in Serie A, with Brescia.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Amateur clubs given reward for efforts

THE four amateur clubs who battled through to the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup were rewarded with home draws last night (Christopher Irvine writes). Overton, from Halifax, meet Super League opposition in Salford Reds, and Egremont were handed the task of trying to beat Workington Town, their Cumbrian neighbours.

Another Cumbrian side, Elanborough, the amateur national cup holders, who disposed of Bramley in the third round on Sunday, are likely to give Hunslet a severe examination. Featherstone Lions, unbeaten this season, were another to dispose of professional opposition and their reward for winning at Doncaster is a visit from Hull Kingston Rovers, twice Challenge Cup winners.

POOLS FORECAST

Table with columns for Saturday February 7, Sunday February 8, and Monday February 9. Lists various rugby league matches and their predicted outcomes.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Wright's case for defence too strong

SUE WRIGHT, the world No 3 and England No 1, became the first woman to defend the British title successfully for more than a decade last night when she defeated Cassandra Jackman 3-9, 9-1, 9-2 in the 51-minute final of the Business Pages national championships at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester (Colin McQuillan writes).

IAAF aid for Britain

BRITISH athletics is to be offered an interest-free loan of around half a million dollars by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), the sport's world governing body, to help solve its financial problems. Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, said yesterday that his organisation was keen to help. The British Athletic Federation went bankrupt last year.

Hopes for De La Hoya

OSCAR DE LA HOYA, the World Boxing Council world welterweight champion, may fight in Britain in October on a bill with Prince Naseem Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation world featherweight title holder. Frank Warren, the promoter, said yesterday that he had discussed terms with Bob Arum, promoter of De La Hoya. "It's a mouthwatering prospect," Warren said.

Perth's inviting plan

SCOTLAND'S indoor competitions, is optimistic that the Scottish Hockey Union will approve plans to stage an invitation-only women's indoor cities tournament in Perth next January. The competition would be run on similar lines to the successful men's events held on a more regular basis.

Denver sign Coghill

GEORGE COGHILL, the Scottish Claymores defensive back, yesterday signed a one-year contract with Denver Broncos, the Super Bowl champions. Coghill, who spent the past three seasons with the Claymores, joined Denver after last summer and became a key reserve in the Broncos' defence.

Handwritten Arabic text: كذا ما اليا

BRIEFLY 3
Durkin delighted by Fifa honour

Peters is pick of England's likely lads

FROM JOHN STERN IN JOHANNESBURG
FOR Stephen Peters, the Essex batsman whose century set up England's victory in the final of the Under-19 World Cup in Johannesburg on Sunday, to be the centre of attention is a sensation he has not experienced for some time.
His record of being the youngest Englishman to score a century on his first-class debut - against Cambridge University in 1996 - became a milestone last season when he tried too hard to pile on the runs rather than let things take their natural course.
He did not even make a half-century for Essex Second XI in 1997. After his success here, he hopes to force his way into the first team.
The two senior players - Owais Shah, the captain, of Middlesex, and Paul Franks, the Nottinghamshire pace bowler - had, by their standards, disappointing tours. Shah helped to save the second Test against South Africa, but his only fifty in the World Cup was in the final.
Franks stood up well to a demanding tour, although his performances in the World Cup, except for an outstanding spell against Australia, were surprisingly wayward. Both he and Richard Logan, generally his new-ball partner, struggled to control the Kookaburra balls used here.
Graeme Swann, the Northamptonshire off spinner, was the pick of the attack. He achieved an impressive amount of spin, even on unkind surfaces, and bowled few bad balls. He was in tremendous form with the bat early in the tour.
Graham Napier, an all-rounder who made his county championship debut last season, impressed with his attitude. His medium-pace bowling, particularly in the World Cup, was accurate and he made good use of reverse swing.
Ireland look likely to sign Steve Waugh, the Australia vice-captain, for next season. Waugh had been expected to help Scotland's preparations for the 1999 World Cup, but the Scottish Cricket Union has been deterred by the £30,000 price tag.

CRICKET: FAST BOWLER SHINES ON UNEVEN PITCH TO TROUBLE TRINIDAD
England given a lift by Caddick

FROM ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN PORT-OF-SPEEN
THE chemical fumes flowing from the refinery chimneys of Pointe-à-Pierre yesterday were matched by the hot air at present being expended on the Port of Spain pitch. Assumptions and re-cremations already abound but England will discover the truth about the next critical strip of soil on Thursday and, no matter what awaits them, it cannot come soon enough after an uncomfortable and uninformative two days in the off-days.
This hurriedly inserted fixture was never likely to be competitive and can be thought useful to England only on the basis that middle practice is always preferable to nets. The locals of south Trinidad have been friendly and accommodating, but whether a daily, two-hour round trip for the pleasure of inhaling the vapours can be thought ideal Test preparation is dubious.
The second Test pitch may well be underprepared, an inevitable legacy of the emergency measures in force. It may also be left worryingly green. But there is little chance that it will bear any resemblance to this slow, turning surface on which the Trinidad wrist spinners took all ten England wickets before their batsmen decided within danger of following on yesterday.
England took five wickets in the morning session as the bounce grew increasingly uneven for the quicker bowlers. There was an encouragingly waspish spell from Andy Caddick and both Adam Holoake and Robert Croft benefited from their first bowling of the month-old tour.
At 92 for five, Michael Atherton was obliged to consider whether he might end the follow-on or risk batting again on a deteriorating pitch. Such thoughts receded, however, as Phil Simmons, acting captain of Trinidad, batted with uncharacteristic restraint during a century stand with Lincoln Roberts that effectively buried the match.
Simmons, of course, does not feature in West Indies' Test-match thinking and the one local batsman who will definitely play on Thursday, the wicketkeeper, David Williams, was out for nought. Of



Caddick's appeal for leg-before against the opener, Ragoonath, is rewarded yesterday

Brian Lara, the resting captain, was unsurprisingly no sign; Guaranac Park is not a ground to visit voluntarily.
Whether the change of wind direction, whiffing fumes across the ground, accounted either for the morning quee

outside the refinery medical centre, or for the reduced match attendance, was hard to say. However, by lunch the crowd had grown to respectable proportions once again.
The English support number

Bolton, refugees from the Kingston fiasco, doubtless feeling fleeced and frustrated. Their bruised spirits were lifted as Caddick, generally adhering to an off-stump line, disturbed all the early batsmen with lift and movement.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for England XI First Innings, Trinidad and Tobago First Innings, and various statistics like runs, wickets, and overs.

England A lose bite before being rattled

FROM SIMON WILDE IN KURUNEGALA
KURUNEGALA (third day of four): Sri Lanka A with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 44 runs behind England A
IN CRICKETING parlance, a pitch that gives a lot of help to spin bowlers is sometimes termed a "spitting cobra". Perhaps not so readily in future after a snake - about 5ft in length - took an active part in proceedings here yesterday.
The snake took up a position at long-on during the last session of the day, and when one of the Sri Lanka tail-enders hit a ball from Mark Ealham down the ground, the ball struck it a stinging blow. James Ormond, the Leicestershire player, who had gone in pursuit, found himself pulling up short.
If the ball had not hit the snake, I would never have seen it," he said a few minutes later, having moved to the off-side boundary. "The ball bounced off it at right angles and I managed to jump over it and field the ball. I think I would have stepped on it otherwise.
I do not know what type of snake it was, but it was a brown colour and looked like ones I have seen in Australia. Those are absolutely deadly - their most poisonous kind.
After the unexpected meeting of scales with leather, the snake scuttled off across the boundary rope and was eventually chased away by local boys wielding sticks. It disappeared into the forest surrounding the club ground. David Nash, the reserve wicketkeeper, who is not playing in the match, was walking around the boundary in bare feet and was forced to take evasive action.
Ealham was in the middle of a useful spell at the time, but it was noted that he subsequently reduced his run-up from the repile end. There being nothing in the rules about animals fielding the ball, no penalty was incurred by England A.
In fact, despite Ormond's observations, the snake may have been a harmless variety. Local opinion was that it was probably a garudika, which is not poisonous to humans.

though the news came too late to be of consolation to Ormond.
The composure of the England players was not helped by the fact that they were last night obliged to move to a hotel in the heart of the central Sri Lankan jungle at Sigiriya. The match is due to finish today, a day later than scheduled after play on Saturday was set aside as a national day of mourning because of the recent terrorist atrocity in Kandy.
If the players fancied a late-night stroll, they ought to have been warned that the neighbouring countryside is littered with wild elephants and leopards. The hotel

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Sri Lanka A First Innings, Sri Lanka B First Innings, and various statistics like runs, wickets, and overs.

South Africa have a spring in their step

FROM PAT GIBSON IN ADELAIDE
ADELAIDE (fourth day of five): Australia, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, require 329 runs to beat South Africa
THIS third and final Test has been of considerable significance to England. The good news is that Australia, who have triumphed in the past five Ashes series, are beginning to look vulnerable. The bad news is that South Africa will provide formidable opposition in England this year.
They have comprehensively outplayed Australia here, leaving the world champions to score 361 for victory or bat for a minimum of 107 overs to achieve the draw they need to preserve their 1-0 lead and win their ninth successive series.
The task looked beyond them last night when, to reduce the target by 32 runs,

they lost Matthew Elliott, whose position on the forthcoming tour of India is in jeopardy, and more damagingly, Mark Taylor, whose monumental 169 not out in the first innings had saved his side from the follow-on.

Despite Taylor's achievement in becoming only the ninth Australian to carry his bat through a Test innings, South Africa had a first-innings lead of 167, and Gary Kirsten and Adam Bacher built convincingly on it with

an opening partnership of 80. Bacher had made 41 when he skyed Shane Warne to cover, but the uncomplicated Kirsten, South Africa's most dependable batsman, proved that the great leg spinner can be tamed.
We realised that the right-handers were going to struggle against the leg spinners because the ball was turning a lot and I was really positive and concentrated on hitting him as straight as possible," he said. Warne, in one of his least effective Tests, finished with match figures of three for 147 from 48 overs, while Kirsten added an unbeaten 108 to his first-innings 77.
South Africa did lose their momentum for a while when Klusener, Symcox and Gibbs fell to the other leg spinner, Stuart MacGill, but Jonny Rhodes got them going again and there was a spring in their step when they took the field 17 overs from the close.

SCOREBOARD FROM ADELAIDE

Table with columns for South Africa First Innings, Australia First Innings, and various statistics like runs, wickets, and overs.

FOR THE RECORD

Table listing various sports records including Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Hockey, and Snooker.

ROWING

HAMBURG HEAD: Eggleston 1, Hampton 2, ...

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH (third day of four): Pakistan 416-8 dec and 216-9 dec (Jan 31); South 61; 2 Druce 4-41; ...

SQUASH

MANCHESTER: Business Pages national championship; ...

FOOTBALL

FRENCH LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round; ...

RUGBY UNION

YOUR MATCH: Harlequins 31; ...

SAILING

WHITEHEAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: ...

Air France advertisement featuring a large image of an Air France plane and text: 'Save up to 50% on worldwide flights with Air France'. Includes details about destinations, fares, and a coupon for a free French language CD-ROM.

SAILING: FEW WAVES OF OPTIMISM IN ROUND-THE-WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

Edwards worried by slow start

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER six weeks of waiting for the right weather, Tracy Edwards and her all-women crew aboard Royal & SunAlliance, the powerful 92ft catamaran, finally slipped their mooring in Hamble Point Marina yesterday and headed off down the English Channel to begin their non-stop round-the-world record attempt.

Edwards and her international crew have been on stand-by since early December, but conditions on the way down to the Equator have never been right for a fast passage. This part of the voyage is considered crucial for a realistic crack at the world record, which stands at 71 days and 22 hours, set by Olivier de Kersauson, of France, on Sport-Elec, the trimaran, in May last year.

The impression Edwards and Adrienne Cahalan, her navigator, gave yesterday was that this start — they will cross the official start-line between Ushant and the Lizard sometime this morning — is far from ideal. A high-pressure system coming across the Atlantic may produce dreaded light winds and delay the journey south.

"It's a light start — not everything we hoped for, but Bob Rice [the campaign routing expert] warned that if we waited much longer, we were in danger of waiting too long for a perfect scenario and then we might lose what we've got now," Edwards said. "It was a difficult decision but it is right to go now."

This record attempt comes at the end of a year-long build-up that has seen Edwards buy and refit the old ENZA New Zealand, in which Sir Peter Blake and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston set a world record of 74 days in 1994, then failed to break both the multi-hull west-east transatlantic record and the round-Britain-and-



Edwards strikes a thoughtful pose before setting out from Hamble Point Marina in Royal & SunAlliance

Irland record. Failure in both those attempts was followed by a successful cross-Channel record attempt between Cowes and St Malo, a voyage the women completed in just 6hr 49min at an average speed of 22.7 knots.

Yesterday Edwards seemed a little reticent about committing herself to an attempt on the world record. "We're confident of getting round, even though that's a challenge in itself, and we don't want to mess it up for the next lot of women who try it," she said.

"After that we will set our sights on 80 days — the essence of the Jules Verne Trophy. We are desperate to beat ENZA's time, and then there's the 71 days — that's

very, very tough but we'll go for it and see what happens." The 11-strong crew leave against a fairly sceptical backdrop. Apart from Edwards's habitual critics, who dislike any all-women ventures in top-class sailing, the more thoughtful observers are con-

cerned at the inexperience of this crew, who can count only three circumnavigations between them compared to 19 among the all-star, eight-strong team on ENZA. There are also question marks over the strength and fitness of the girls and their ability to han-

dle the catamaran in extreme conditions. Edwards, meanwhile, has at times seemed a little overawed by the task she has set herself.

Many, mainly male, armchair critics predict that Royal & SunAlliance will not get further than Cape Town, but neither Edwards nor Cahalan will have any of that. "I'm talking about 70 days — definitely," Cahalan, an experienced sailor from Sydney who had hoped to be leading her own campaign in the Whitbread Round the World Race until sponsorship difficulties forced her to drop out, said. "I want to do 70, that's the all-important thing — that's why we're doing it, to get a record."

America's Cup bonanza

A RECORD 16 yacht clubs from ten countries have paid the \$250,000 (about £145,000) performance bond to take part in the Challenger Selection Series at the 2000 America's Cup in Auckland.

The number of syndicates apparently capable of putting together multimillion-pound campaigns, which include the Spirit of Britain syndicate led by Lawrie Smith, has astonished the organisers, the America's Cup Challenge Association. Dave Jones, its president, said: "This is amazing. This is going to make for a very exciting Challenger Selection Series."

SNOOKER: NEWCOMER DISPATCHES WHITE WITH IMPRESSIVE FIRST-ROUND PERFORMANCE

Lee makes his Masters debut memorable



White: disappointed

FEW players, if any, have made a more impressive debut in the 24 years of the Benson and Hedges Masters than Stephen Lee, who reached the second round yesterday by comprehensively defeating Jimmy White 5-1. White, "annoyed and disappointed" with the way he played, did not place Lee under any great pressure, but he refused to detract from a performance of which many more-seasoned Masters campaigners would have been proud.

Lee recovered from the loss of the opening frame to win in only 74 minutes with a string of telling contributions, ruthlessly punishing almost all of White's mistakes. "I surprised myself by the way I settled down so quickly," Lee said. He now meets Stephen Hendry, winner of the tournament six times since 1989, for a place in the quarter-finals.

By PHIL YATES

White won the first frame well enough but then a combination of unforced errors and Lee's efficiency led to a one-way flow. White, awarded a discretionary invitation after being relegated from the game's top 16 at the end of last season, was unable to justify the sponsors' faith in him.

Lee, a 23-year-old from Trowbridge who figured in the semi-finals of the United Kingdom championship three months ago, constructed breaks of 85, 85, 114 and 49, but the run that hurt White most came at the end of the fourth frame. Holding a 65-32 advantage, White was poised to level at 2-2, but he missed the last red, a routine straight pot, Lee cleared with 35 to steal the frame on the break for a 3-1 lead and never looked back. White, who habitually shies from

making excuses, felt, on this occasion, obliged to offer an explanation for his ineffectiveness. "I got a couple of hours' sleep maximum last night and I went into the match feeling really agitated," he said.

Assisted by three century breaks, James Wattana rallied from a 4-0 deficit to beat John Parrott 6-5 in the second round and will now provide the quarter-final opposition for Ken Doherty, the world champion, or Tony Drago.

At the mid-session interval, after Parrott had dominated the early exchanges, a whitewash appeared more than a distinct possibility, but Wattana ignited his revival with a 133 total clearance. Runs of 100 and 115 in consecutive frames carried him to 4-4 and, from 5-4 adrift, the Thai accounted for the closing two with combinations of 60 and 71. "It's got to be one of my best comebacks ever," Wattana said.

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns: Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather (5pm), Last snow. Rows include Austria (Kitzbühel, Sohl), France (Avonax, Deux Alpes, Flaine, Megève, Tignes, Val d'Isère), Italy (Corvara, Livigno), and Switzerland (C Montana, Klosters, Vilers).

Answers from page 47
REVUSICAL (a) Theatrical entertainment that combines elements of the revue and musical. A silly portmanteau word. "These losers dance in revusicals which might even turn out flopperoo."
SACKIE (c) Any of several small parrots found in northern South America, especially Pionites melanoccephala, which has black, blue, and green plumage. The local name in Guyana. "I would initiate the kiss-kisses and sackies as they sang."
PARFAIT AMOUR (a) A sweet, spiced liqueur. In French literally "perfect love". "She was being given a choice between crème de cacao, crème de banane and a marvellous concoction known to Holland as Parfait Amour."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1. Rh4+! 2.g4! Nh4 3.Kg2 Qg2 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

An incompetent hero?

Walden on Heroes BBC2, 7.30pm
Brian Walden rounds off his series of impromptu talks by considering the one contemporary figure entitled to heroic status, if not sainthood. But those who have followed Walden so far will know that having set his subject up, he will do his best to knock him down. With Nelson Mandela this is as comprehensive a demolition job as you are likely to see. Walden considers the breadth of mind and greatness of soul in Mandela's refusal to wreak vengeance on those who mistreated him. That is about all he will concede. This Mandela is an incompetent revolutionary who brought his long imprisonment on himself and was lucky not to hang. And his judgment since his release has been equally awful, whether praising Saddam Hussein and the IRA, tolerating corruption or turning on old friends such as Desmond Tutu.



Staff of Europ Assistance (CA, 9.00pm)

Shop Till You Drop Channel 4, 8.00pm
Do not imagine that selling clothes is a matter of filling up racks and hoping customers will like what they see. The message of this series is that clothes retailing is a science, with the design, lighting and layout of shops, and selling techniques, the result of careful analysis by teams of psychologists and marketing people. Women buy many more clothes than men and this first programme asks whether pricing, age and spending power. The surprise, perhaps, is that the biggest spenders are teenagers. Where do they get the money? Older people with less to spend are known as "price-led shoppers", though "bargain hunters" is just as good. At the top end are "interested label seekers", well-off women who think nothing of spending £20 per visit.

arranges air ambulances back to Britain. Its services are also required by four friends after their camper van collides with a lorry near Berlin. Although nobody is seriously hurt, the van is a write-off and a nine-month trip has ended in three weeks. Brinkworth follows "Tutti", stories in his magazine detail, through his film does sometimes like a promotion for the rescue organisation. But it also offers a warning to people who go abroad uninsured that an air ambulance can cost more than £40,000.

Cutting Edge: Rescue Channel 4, 9.00pm
A two-partter from Malcolm Brinkworth, focuses on Britons who have accidents during holidays abroad. In Barcelona 16-year-old Nicky sustains a leg injury while on a school trip and could be permanently disabled. Enter Europ Assistance, a company which looks after such cases and

Inside Story: Forbidden Love BBC1, 9.30pm
Many arranged marriages in the British Asian community, we are told, are successful. But at the heart of Rachel Couglan's startling film are young Asian women who decided to disobey the demands of their Muslim faith and paid heavily for relationships with non-Asian men. At Richard, but had to keep the affair secret because she had been promised to a cousin in Pakistan. When she did tell her parents she was kept prisoner in the family house and refused medical attention. To escape her arranged marriage Zena went on the run with her boyfriend Jack. When one of her brothers caught up with her, Bradford police inspector says that 200 Asian girls run away from home last year on his patch alone. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Victor Berge: The Shortest Distance Between Two People Radio 2, 9.30pm
Radio 2's habit of producing retrospectives such as this may be cheap radio but they serve to introduce great performers to new generations of listeners. Victor Berge was a Danish pianist based in the United States, was one of the wisest entertainers I have seen or heard, though others, particularly some musical purists, accused him of the worst of both worlds: making a deliberate mess of good piano music in order to get a weak laugh. But the reason why he was so successful was a brilliant pianist, otherwise he could not have done what he did. His career is examined here by Michael Copley (of The Classicus) in the first of two programmes; the second is next Tuesday.

The Musical Directors: Ken Russell Radio 4, 2.30pm
Was Ken Russell put on the planet to be controversial or is it just that he holds views that other people find controversial? He tells Richard Baker in this programme that "all other arts are just plain but music defies analysis". This will come as bad news to my several colleagues who review music and it will make more room for novels in the libraries that now have shelves bending to support countless volumes of musical analysis. Russell is the latest film director to explain to Baker the experience of music in his films and to explain in many ways the most significant figure in the series, having made films about composers (Tchaikovsky, Mahler) as well as films that depend heavily on the impact of their musical scores. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey, including 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Cive Women, including 5.45 Newsbeat 6.30 Steve Wright Evening Session 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Ann Hobbs 1.00am Charis Jordan 4.00 Chris Moyles

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off The Shelf, including 7.30 What's New 7.45 The Lab 8.00 News 8.10 Please for Thought 8.15 International Record 9.00 News in German 9.30 Only One World Business Report 9.15 The Corporate Handbook 9.30 Literature File: The Mill On The Floor 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.30 On Screen 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Civilization 12.00 News 12.30pm World Business Today 1.00 News 1.15 12.30 Health Matters 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack Hit List 3.00 News; News in German 3.05 only 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Newsday 3.20 The Corporate Handbook 3.30 News 3.45 Sailing Stars 4.30 The World Today; News in German 4.45 4.45 Biko Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 One Planet News in German 6.45 6.45 7.00 News 7.00 Outlook 7.25 Please for Thought 7.30 Newsday 8.00 Newsday 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Megabyte 12.00 Newsday 12.30 The Evening News 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Discovery 2.00 Newsday 2.30 World News 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 One Planet News 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Jimmy Walker 7.00 James Galway: Encore! 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Melly Talle 9.30 Victor Berge: The Shortest Distance Between Two People. See Choice 10.30 Richard Atkinson 12.00am Steve Macken 2.00 Alex Lester

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 6.00 Henry Kelly, includes Record of the Week and the Classic Masterpiece. Plus advice on how to deal with music and Music Moments 12.00 Lunchtime Relaxation. Jane Jurek includes her favourite pieces of music 2.00pm Concerto. First (Clarinet Concerto in C minor) 3.00 Jamie Crook, includes Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romances 5.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Stainer 8.00 Evening Concerto. Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor; Piano Sonata in B flat, incidental music to a Midsummer Night's Dream) 11.00 Menu at Night. Music to take you through the midnight hour 2.00am Concerto (9) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, introduced by Andrew McGregor, includes Mozart (Violin Concerto No 3 in G); Stanford, Boris Escherich (The Boatman's Boy); The Go Down to the Sea in Ships; Debussy, transcr. Ravel (Nocturnes); Haydn (String Quartet in E flat, Joke) 9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hootby, Smetana, Richard Strauss (Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra; Don Quixote); Villa-Lobos (Suite Populaire Brasileira); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 6) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Charles Ludwig, Chitra Lakshmi talks about some of her greatest operatic roles and remembers colleagues from the 1950s and 1960s 11.00 Sound Stories, Peggy Reynolds continues the story of Orpheus 12.00 Composer of the Week: Lalo Schjahn, with Peter Hootby, Smetana, Richard Strauss (Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra; Don Quixote in D minor) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Franz Liszt (Symphony in D minor); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 2 in A), under Jean YVES Eschne, with Boris Berezovsky, piano; Mstislav Rostropovich (No 4), under Martyn Brabbins, with Newsline 4.00 Out in the East, with Ian Burnside 4.45 Music Mashup, with Verity Sharp 5.00 In Tune, Sean Rafferty explores a new work in musicology: Susan McClary, the composer in residence with the Northern Sinfonia in Newcastle. Plus music from Liszt and Borodin

RADIO 4

6.00am On Air, introduced by Andrew McGregor, includes Mozart (Violin Concerto No 3 in G); Stanford, Boris Escherich (The Boatman's Boy); The Go Down to the Sea in Ships; Debussy, transcr. Ravel (Nocturnes); Haydn (String Quartet in E flat, Joke) 9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hootby, Smetana, Richard Strauss (Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra; Don Quixote); Villa-Lobos (Suite Populaire Brasileira); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 6) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Charles Ludwig, Chitra Lakshmi talks about some of her greatest operatic roles and remembers colleagues from the 1950s and 1960s 11.00 Sound Stories, Peggy Reynolds continues the story of Orpheus 12.00 Composer of the Week: Lalo Schjahn, with Peter Hootby, Smetana, Richard Strauss (Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra; Don Quixote in D minor) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Franz Liszt (Symphony in D minor); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 2 in A), under Jean YVES Eschne, with Boris Berezovsky, piano; Mstislav Rostropovich (No 4), under Martyn Brabbins, with Newsline 4.00 Out in the East, with Ian Burnside 4.45 Music Mashup, with Verity Sharp 5.00 In Tune, Sean Rafferty explores a new work in musicology: Susan McClary, the composer in residence with the Northern Sinfonia in Newcastle. Plus music from Liszt and Borodin

7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the Concert Hall, New Broadcasting House, introduced by Rodney Stanford, Boris Escherich (The Boatman's Boy); The Go Down to the Sea in Ships; Debussy, transcr. Ravel (Nocturnes); Haydn (String Quartet in E flat, Joke) 9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hootby, Smetana, Richard Strauss (Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra; Don Quixote); Villa-Lobos (Suite Populaire Brasileira); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 6) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Charles Ludwig, Chitra Lakshmi talks about some of her greatest operatic roles and remembers colleagues from the 1950s and 1960s 11.00 Sound Stories, Peggy Reynolds continues the story of Orpheus 12.00 Composer of the Week: Lalo Schjahn, with Peter Hootby, Smetana, Richard Strauss (Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra; Don Quixote in D minor) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Franz Liszt (Symphony in D minor); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 2 in A), under Jean YVES Eschne, with Boris Berezovsky, piano; Mstislav Rostropovich (No 4), under Martyn Brabbins, with Newsline 4.00 Out in the East, with Ian Burnside 4.45 Music Mashup, with Verity Sharp 5.00 In Tune, Sean Rafferty explores a new work in musicology: Susan McClary, the composer in residence with the Northern Sinfonia in Newcastle. Plus music from Liszt and Borodin

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Micky with Mar 2.00pm Four on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Alan Winters 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match Coverage of tonight's FA Cup fourth round replay 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra with David McNeil 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

RADIO 5

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Billie Holiday, Yesterday (117) 580 4464 with your questions for the guest of the day 10.00 (FM) News: A Place of Silence. The psychologist Susan McClary talks about her regular retreat to a remote farmhouse in Wales 10.15 (LW) On These Days. Sue Limb looks at 50 scientific surveys 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray and guests 11.30 Medicine Now. Geoff Waits presents a weekly look at the state of healthcare 12.00 News: Yes and Yours. Corrieann, news and current affairs with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Word of Mouth, with Russell Davies, includes a contemporary look at the language of style (56) 12.55 World's News 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clark 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Thirty Minute Theatre: Phone Tag, by Israel Horowitz. A love story for the high-tech age. With John Succasa, Elizabeth Marsfield and Doreen Mantle 2.30 The Musical Director. See Choice 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift, with Debra Brehan 4.00 News: 6.00 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan heads the much-awaited biography of Alexander Solzhenitsyn by D.M. Thomas. Plus reviews of a film of Thomas Hardy's The Woodlanders 4.45 Short Story: Cloude, by Mary Morriss, read by Graeme McCann 5.00 PM, with Claire English and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 6.55 Weather 6.58 News 7.00 The Archers (2) 7.10 News 7.20 PM, with Liz Carrey 7.30 News Now. A weekly look at the latest scientific discoveries and developments with Peter Sykes (1) 8.30 In Living Colour. Trevor Phillips presents the magazine focusing on black and Asian issues in Britain 9.00 In Touch. Presented by Peter White 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.50 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 Book of the Week: Quarantine. Jim Crace's novel, read by Sara Lee (Kashimiro) (7/10) 11.00 Meditations. Roger Bolton reviews the week's events in the media (1) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. A roundup of the day's events in Westminster 11.30 (FM) Focus in Westminster. A two-part exploration of the sexual experience of Westminster in context. Culture, David Neil Lodge visits Tokyo (12) (1) 12.00 News 12.30am: The Late Book: A Spell of Oliver Raynor by Helen Dunmore, edited by Oliver Raynor and read by Janet Maw (58) (1) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

Large advertisement for 'SOLAR' watches. The ad features a large image of a watch with the brand name 'SOLAR' prominently displayed. Below the watch, there are sections for 'PEOPLE', 'LIFE', and 'NEWS'. The text is partially obscured by a large, stylized graphic of a watch face.

50



CRICKET 49
England's bowlers find their form in Trinidad

SPORT

SAILING 50
Slow going as Edwards takes on the world



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1998

Fowler's omission against Chile puts young team-mate ahead in queue for France

Owen jumps on England fast track

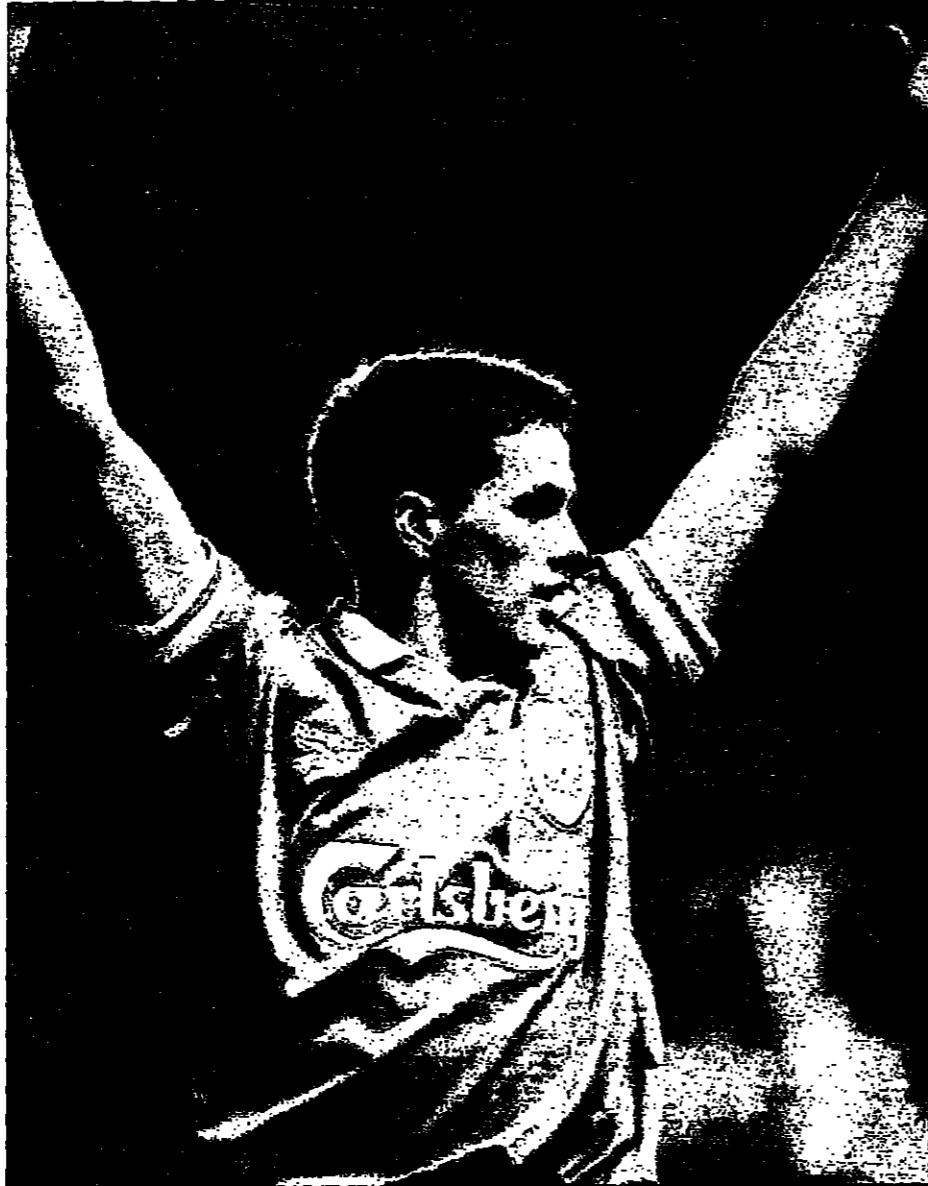


Football Correspondent

ON THE way up, Michael Owen passed Robbie Fowler on the way down yesterday. As a first summons to the full England squad marked the latest point in the dizzying ascent of the young Liverpool forward, so Fowler, his Anfield striking partner, was eased a few more paces away from the fast track to greatness that once seemed to be his for the following. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, told Fowler that he had not even secured a place in the B squad for the matches against Chile next week.

Somehow, the rise and rise of Owen, 18, seems to have accentuated the fall from grace of Fowler. In the minds of the public and some sections of the press, at least, the juxtaposition of Owen's fresh-faced vigour and brimming confidence with the dissipated air that has begun to cling to Fowler has pointed towards the inevitable image of the apprentice supplanting his master — albeit one not yet 23 himself — when Hoddle chooses his final 22 for the World Cup finals in France this summer.

There is a poignancy in the contrasting fortunes of the young men that is apparent in conversation with Owen. An assured young man, he speaks with awe of Fowler's finishing in training, of the accuracy and the power of his shooting. Yet here he is, ahead of his hero in the pecking order, a face that seems to fit more neatly than his team-



The joy felt by Owen, left, at his selection by Hoddle contrasts with Fowler's disappointment over his failure to make either of the two England squads announced yesterday



mate's. Hoddle named a full squad of 24 to face Chile at Wembley next Wednesday and a B squad of 19 to prepare for a match against Chile B at The Hawthorns the night before.

Though he sought to ease Fowler's disappointment by suggesting that he had not included him in the B squad because he did not need to prove his capabilities, Hoddle also damned him by admitting that if Owen kept playing the way he has been doing for Liverpool, he would be a

strong candidate to become one of the chosen few when that final squad is named. For that to happen, of course, Owen, who has established himself ahead of Fowler and Karlheinz Riedle as Liverpool's first-choice striker, has to maintain his form. But so stellar has his progress been, so mature his attitude and so clinical his finishing, that it would be foolish to bet against him becoming the youngest player to appear for England this century at some time during the international at Wembley.

With Alan Shearer, England's returning captain, destined for a place on the substitutes' bench, it is probable that, in a week when Manchester United mourn once more for the youth of the men lost at Munich, Owen will light a new beacon for the dreams of the young by bearing the record held by the late, great Duncan Edwards. He will be just 18 years and 59 days old next Wednesday. Edwards was 18 years and 183 days when he played against Scotland in 1955.

"I am absolutely delighted to have been called up," Owen said yesterday. "It is no secret that my ambitions have been

'At 18, Owen could well beat the record set by Duncan Edwards'

to play for Liverpool and England. At this stage of my career, it is vital for me to stay fit, keep learning and keep my feet firmly on the floor. It is wonderful to be selected and just like at Liverpool, all I can do is continue to let my football do the talking."

At his own press conference at a West London hotel,

Hoddle distanced himself from remarks he made recently that appeared to suggest that Owen — an old hand on young shoulders if ever there was one — needed to stamp out unspecified off-field problems. Yesterday, he said his comments had been meant as a general warning to a group of four or five young players of

potential and, as if by compensation, he was unstinting in his praise of the Liverpool striker this time.

"From the first day he came in to train with the England squad for a bit of experience a couple of months ago, he did not look out of place and he did not feel out of place," Hoddle said.

"He seemed to know that there is a time to show no respect to the older players and that that is in the hour and a half of a football match. Sometimes you can be in awe of people and your natural performance will not come out. This kid avoided that, but after the game the nice temperament came back again."

"What he is doing week-in and week-out at Liverpool suggests that he might be capable of getting into the final 22 in four or five months. But I need to find out whether he can do what he is doing in the Premiership against the best defenders in the world. That is a different league. It is a different level."

Hoddle stressed that "the door is not shut" for players such as Fowler, Matt Le Tissier, Stan Collymore and Gary Pallister, all omitted from both squads, that he

wanted to use the six games he has before the World Cup to assess different players, and that he knows all he needs to know about the aforementioned quartet. Andy Cole, the in-form Manchester United striker, and Dion Dublin, the other new entrant to the squad, are likely to benefit from that policy.

But in Fowler's case, at least, it has appeared for a while now that a curious kind of mistrust has grown between him and the England coach, and that Fowler suffers for his shortcomings before others. Les Ferdinand, for example, a striker who has had a stunningly indifferent season for Tottenham Hotspur, was recalled to the full squad.

At the same time, it seems to count for nothing that, with 13 goals, Fowler remains Liverpool's leading goalscorer this season. The devil-may-care attitude that he affects sits uneasily with Hoddle. His references to Fowler's need to recover his "mental strength" yesterday lent substance to reports that he has encouraged Fowler to visit a spiritual counsellor, Eileen Drury.

The knitting of Fowler's famed "irreverence" with Drury's approach looks problematic, to say the least. The assimilation of Owen to the cause, though, should proceed altogether more smoothly.

Dublin's delight, page 48
Dunkin's honour, page 48
Overseas View, page 48

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22
23 24

No 1319

- ACROSS**
7 (Horse) coat sprinkled with white (4)
8 Fit of anger; a stroke (8)
9 Vague, misty state (5)
10 Summit (4)
11 Peeping Tom (6)
13 Start golf round (3,3)
15 Horrified (6)
17 Require; state firmly (6)
19 Photo; guess; injection (4)
21 All-embracing (8)
23 Hat maker (8)
24 Uninteresting (colour) (4)
- DOWN**
1 (Going) very cheaply (3,1,4)
2 Complete (6)
3 Bringer of destruction (4)
4 Dante Gabriel —, Pre-Raphaelite (8)
5 Missing quantity of liquid (6)
6 Wheelshaft (4)
12 Saying little (8)
14 Celebration; Britain's, in 1951 (8)
16 Hun king (6)
18 Poor quality (material) (6)
20 Greeting; bad weather (4)
22 Go off; change colour; reach (an age) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1318
ACROSS: 1 False dawn 6 Sip 8 Staff 9 Tribune
10 Phlegm 12 Hinge 13 Thrive 14 Coerce 17 Incus
19 Arrest 21 Mitras 22 Tithe 23 Rip 24 Plain cook
DOWN: 1 Fast 2 Leather 3 Ell 4 Autumn 5 Neighbour
6 Spurn 7 Precede 11 Eavesdrop 13 Trimmer 15 Risotto
16 Nausea 18 Cut up 20 Beck 22 Tin

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Cole: in form



Shearer: returning

Woodward places faith in Guscott

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a year in which he was injured or considered superfluous to requirements, Jeremy Guscott will return to international rugby on Saturday as a first choice for England. Many remain baffled that he has ever been away.

Guscott was selected by Clive Woodward yesterday in the XV to play France at the new Stade de France in Paris on the opening day of the 1998 Five Nations Championship, one of three changes from the side that earned so meritorious a draw against New Zealand in December. He displaces the man alongside whom he has played so often for Bath, Phil de Glanville, whom he partnered during the club's Heineken Cup success against Brive at the weekend.

With him from that match came Mike Catt, at full back, and Mark Regan, at hooker, but it is to Guscott that England's supporters will look in their search for the fluent, running rugby to which England aspire. At 32 he will be winning his 49th cap and, but for the decision of his erstwhile club coach, Jack Rowell, to omit him for most of 1997 (De Glanville and Will Carling played in last season's Five Nations) he would be soaring towards the 60 mark that Jason Leonard attains on Saturday.

"It's a bit like getting your first cap," Guscott said after England trained at Twickenham. That first selection was nine years ago against Romania in Bucharest. Three British Isles tours and two World Cups later, Guscott's reputation as a midfield destroyer remains unimpaired but so do his defensive attributes which, whisper it quietly, were questioned by some England officials a year ago.

If there were any doubts on that score, Guscott answered them last summer with the Lions in South Africa, who will go down as one of the great defensive sides to visit the country. It was there, too, that Guscott struck up a harmonious partnership with Will Greenwood, the Leicester centre, with whom he plays in Paris.

They appeared in three matches, before the combination developed: Greenwood was concussed against Free State and Guscott himself broke an arm in the final meeting with South Africa. It was that injury which delayed the start of his season, before a prolapsed disc in his back was judged to require surgery and removed him from England's autumn series with New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

He would have returned for Bath against Newcastle on January 17 but a waterlogged pitch at Gateshead intervened, so it has required only two matches — a defeat by Richmond in the Tetley's Bitter Cup and victory in the Heineken Cup final against Brive — to convince Clive Woodward, the England coach, that Guscott could grace the international stage once more.

Woodward talked long and hard with Andy Robinson, the Bath director of rugby, about Guscott's fitness and attitude and found assurance. "I think Jerry's a world-class player," Woodward said. "He obviously wanted to play against France and he's certainly fresh."

The enthusiasm is shared. "England has a back line to really upset sides and under Clive we have licence to express ourselves," Guscott said. "It's a question of getting ball in hand and going for it."

There is no undersoil heating and the consortium that runs the stadium has asked the French Rugby Federation to help out. "They have got into difficulties because they do not have a protective cover of the type needed," Jacky Laurans, the federation secretary-general, said.

The situation will be reviewed on Thursday. England are scheduled to train at the PUC ground at Charley but a game was called off there on Sunday because of the rock-hard surface and England could be forced to look elsewhere for practice facilities.

It is, though, an embarrassment for the authorities that the £250 million stadium, where a sell-out crowd of 80,000 is expected.

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